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8 September 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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BRIEFS

NEW ENERGY PLANT--A huge thermoelectric plant is being built in Santa Cruz del Norte, Havana Province, some 70 kilometers east of the Cuban capital along the northern coastline, at an estimated cost of 400 million pesos. It has three 100-megawatt and five 200-megawatt generators, the latter of which are the first of such magnitude ever to operate in Cuba. The plant bears evidence to internationalism, since the project is part of the Cuba-USSR bilateral cooperation agreements. It is also one of the province's most important projects and the largest in Santa Cruz del Norte, home to the 30-million-liter-output Havana Club rum distillery. Construction Enterprise No 2, whose brigade 31 is in charge of building this plant, is also constructing and assembling a cement factory in Ethiopia. Close to 20 workers of Brigade 31 are now in that African country to speed up completion of the work there. The first 100-megawatt unit of the Havana plant is scheduled for completion by 1985, and the remaining two will go into operation in each of the successive years. Completion of the whole project will take from 12 to 15 years. Nine hundred workers, including some 30 internationalists, are currently building the plant. A shock task assigned to Cuban youth, it employs over 500 young people ready to lean on the job, to follow in the footsteps of older, more experienced construction workers. The project covers a land area of 106 hectares. So far 90,000 cubic meters of earth have been cleared, 1.4 million cubic meters of rock excavated and work goes on. Sixty-three thousand cubic meters of concrete and 21,200 square meters of prefabricated blocks have been cast to date. A total of 4,800 tons of metal structures is to be mounted, 17,300 tons of technological equipment installed and 16.3 kilometers of pipes laid. The first boiler is now being assembled and mounted, as is the metal framework of the main building. Elsewhere, earth- and rock-clearing operations continue, along with digging a canal, building storage facilities, etc. [Text] [Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 17 Jul 83 p 6]

CSO: 3200/46

TRINIDAD PAPER DEPLORES LATEST GRENADIAN 'TYRRANICAL THRUST'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Aug 83 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text] SWIFTLY, Maurice Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government in Grenada is snatching the last vestiges of freedom from the people of that sad little country.

The Government, through National Mobilisation Minister Selwyn Strachan, has now decreed that public workers must attend political education classes held at their workplaces or run the risk of being held to be absent.

Among the consequences absentees face will be to have their non-attendance counted against them when the Government meets to approve increments and recommendations for promotion.

Surely this must be considered a confession of failure by the supposedly popular PRG, for while the percentage of regular absenteeism was not mentioned by Mr. Strachan, the situation must be alarming enough for him to go public, not exhorting, mind you, but threatening the most blatant injustice.

All talk from PRG apologists about how the people love the Government has now been exposed in our view.

Tyrannical

But we are not at all surprised by this new tyrannical thrust by the PRG.

Recently, Mrs. Phyllis Coard, a prominent member of the PRG Cabinet, visited this country and tried to tell us that the people of Grenada are so illiterate and ignorant that they must be schooled before they can be trusted to participate in a general election.

After that Mr. Bishop came along and told us that there were 35 to 38 persons in detention. Both Ministers have now been exposed as untruthful.

We now know that the "education" Mrs. Coard speaks about is really the compulsory brain stuffing of defenceless workers with Communist claptrap.

A few days after Mr. Bishop misled us with his information regarding detainees, the Acting Commissioner of Prisons (even though he did not refer at all to Hopeville labour camp), swore to High Court Judge Patterson at the end of the July sessions that there were 78 detainees.

This revelation does not shock us. Like so many of our people we are wise in the ways of duplicity practised by persons who try to peddle Marxism and its many variants among us and elsewhere.

This latest gambit in Grenada is simply the realisation of what we had predicted from early about Mr. Bishop's tyrannical regime--that the PRG now have no choice but to continue to strengthen their dictatorial hold over the Grenadian society by the well-known weapons of fear, suspicion, mistrust, terrorism, mind-control and fraudulent propaganda.

It would be interesting to hear what leaders of local trade unions have to say about the PRG's enforced brain-stuffing programme, particularly those who fancy themselves as "leftists" and gave their Grenadian comrade such a hero's reception when he came here to attend the Caricom Summit.

We have no doubt that within his own mind Mr. Bishop must be laughing at the pusillanimity of the majority of West Indian leaders who feel no sense of outrage at his gross duplicity or lack the moral courage to deal with him forcefully within the Caricom partnership.

We are sure that when this period of West Indian history comes to be written, the most painful reflection will be focussed--not on the inevitable mischief of Mr. Bishop but on the failure of those who chose to let him be in the comfortable name of ideological plurality.

CSO: 3298/840

BRIEFS

TOURS TO CUBA, GRENADA--ST GEORGE'S (Reuter)--The first European tourists to take advantage of a new twin destination package have arrived here after spending the first week of their holiday in Cuba, the Cuban Embassy announced. It did not say how many visitors had come int. Aero-Caribbean SA is promoting the Cuba-Grenada combination, and will be flying in a second group of tourists before month's end, the embassy statement said. Aero-Caribbean representative Jesus Vergara said passengers on these first two chargers were from the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), but that tourists from France, Italy, Canada, and Britain were also expected in the coming months. In October, he said, the twin destination will get an additional boost with the inauguration of weekly direct flights between Havana and London, Milan and Cologne. The Caribbean holiday continues from Havana into Grenada, using 30-seat Fokker-27 type planes until next spring. "We are waiting for completion of Grenada's new international airport in March, 1984, to be able to operate with larger aircraft, the Boeing 707 in particular," said Vergara. Aero-Caribbean is also offering a 337 EC dollar promotional Grenada-Havana fare (one EC dollar - 37 US) until September 1. [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Jul 83 p 4]

CSO: 3298/840

GOVERNMENT BAILOUT OF FOREIGN COMPANY ATTACKED AS DISCRIMINATORY

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Jul 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Government's plan to "bail out" an international firm based in Bermuda showed it had double standards in dealing with Bermudian and non-Bermudian firms, Opposition MPs charged yesterday.

But Finance Minister the Hon. David Gibbons rejected the claims, saying the plan was simply a measure to help a firm that could provide exciting job prospects for Bermudians in the future.

The disagreement came during debate on a proposal to defer \$36,000 in Customs duty on equipment brought into the Island by Intex, an international financial futures trading exchange. Intex has hit financial problems lately and the staff of five were laid off two weeks ago.

Mr. Gibbons said the money had already been paid but Intex had asked for it back to pay wages until it was in a better financial position. He said such a procedure had been allowed for hotels in the past.

"This company started with very high hopes that have not yet been realised," said Mr. Gibbons.

"Whether it will be successful in the final analysis we cannot say, but we just hope they will eventually succeed."

Mr. Eugene Cox, the Progressive Labour Party finance spokesman, said that if a Bermudian company had got into such difficulties it would be dismissed as having been badly managed.

"It seems they have not done their homework as thoroughly as they might have," he said.

The PLP would support deferment of duty where necessary, but would like to see the same help given to Bermudian companies in trouble.

"How many Bermudian firms have ever benefited from this sort of thing?" he asked.

Mr. Gilbert Darrell (PLP) said Government appeared to be bailing out the firm.

"I think it is ridiculous that Government should be asked to underwrite what amounts to poor management or whatever it is to the tune of something like \$36,000," he said.

"This is an ugly precedent because any Minister will be able to come here and bail out any company in trouble. I can't understand it because compared to all the money we have heard them talking about, \$36,000 must be peanuts."

Mr. Ottiwell Simmons (PLP) said that if Intex needed money it should be turning to the proper institutions — banks or loan societies — and not taxpayers. If they went to a bank they would have to pay a finder's fee and interest on the loan. Were they being asked to pay interest to the Government?

Several Caribbean islands offered tax breaks to firms as long as there would be a benefit to the people.

"To what extent does this benefit the people of Bermuda?" he asked.

"If the Minister starts to provide this sort of accommodation for the sole benefit of a company and not the people, then this House is functioning for the benefit of companies and not the people."

Mr. Gibbons said that Intex eventually planned to employ 12 Bermudians out of a staff of 14. The scheme, if successful, would offer opportunities to Bermudians other than present industries.

"If we say we are only going to stick with our current international business and our current tourism we may, like the dinosaur, become extinct. This will add further variety to the opportunities of upward mobility for Bermudians," he said.

Mr. Gibbons said that even if Intex was not successful it would only have a minimal impact on Budget considerations. Because the company was not operating when he drew up his Budget he had not expected large amounts of revenue from it.

He agreed that \$36,000 was not a large amount, but felt it might be the "straw to break the camel's back".

"We would hate to do that to something that could be an exciting future industry for Bermudians," he said.

CSO: 3298/847

DEBATE BEGINS ON GOVERNMENT GREEN PAPER ON LABOR RELATIONS

PLP-UBP Exchange

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 14 Jul 83 pp 1, 8, 9

[Excerpts]

Government's Green Paper on labour relations had been inspired by employers who wanted to see unions weakened, the Opposition Progressive Labour Party charged yesterday.

The PLP claimed that "suggestions" put forward in the paper were in fact proposals that the ruling United Bermuda Party would try to write into law, at the prompting of "big business".

And they said that education in labour affairs, not legislation, was the path to follow to industrial peace.

Government members denied the claims, saying the Green Paper was nothing more than a discussion document which put forward the advantages and disadvantages to various types of labour legislation. But they generally agreed with the PLP that education in industrial relations was preferable to legislation.

The Green Paper was introduced by Home Affairs Minister the Hon. Sir John Sharpe. Only 13 other MPs were in the House for the start of the debate.

Sir John said the paper tried to do three things — stress the importance of industrial harmony, present the background to labour law now in force, and present the perceptions raised in the community as to how industrial harmony could be achieved.

"I must stress that the perceptions discussed are not recommendations or

Government proposals for legislation," he said.

Sir John said he had sent copies of the paper to unions and other interested parties, asking for their views so that he could decide whether he should make any recommendations to change current law.

"Armed with the feedback from this debate and views of the community I should be in a position to see whether there should be changes," he said.

Mr. Frederick Wade, the PLP Home Affairs spokesman, said Government should have sought the opinions of workers before drawing up a Green Paper.

"Then we could have had a broader discussion on all areas, not only on those which are the pet peeves of employers but also of the workers," he said.

"Because he has failed to get this input from the unions and other organisations, he has limited what the paper might be able to do. You (Sir John) did not have to get the views of the em-

ployers because your party represents them and both interests coincide. This is one of the troubles with labour relations in Bermuda."

Mr. Wade said important issues such as closed shops, a union's political funds, or democracy in the boardroom had not even been mentioned.

"None of these things are mentioned because they are not issues with which the employer class or the Government are interested," he said.

The labour relations climate could not be properly discussed without reference to the economic structure of the Island.

"It is a well-known fact that the employer class in Bermuda is in a few hands," he said.

"Businesses are either monopolies, or have interlocking directorships where you have the same people appearing on different boards. Where you do not have this you have price-fixing cartels that come together to agree on prices

and other things.

"That structure is dominated by right-wing, conservative thinking. This thinking runs from 'there should not be unions' to bare tolerance of them. Because of this you are naturally going to have a strong force on the other side."

Mr. Wade said that matters were made worse because the major industry of tourism was dominated by foreign owners of hotels which were just part of international chains.

"Over the years Government has pandered to these foreign owners and given them much greater power than they should have," he said.

There was clearly a political aspect to industrial relations. Employers and the UBP were closely linked, while workers generally supported the PLP, he said. Another aspect was race.

"Some people would say Bermuda has solved its race problem," said Mr. Wade.

"But inevitably what happens is the white employer sits down across the table from the black unionist who is bargaining for his black workers, by and large, and we have the question of race. How does law remove what is there in reality?"

Mr. Wade said the PLP did not support legally enforceable collective agreements because they felt the moral obligation on both parties to abide by an agreement was the best way to maintain free collective bargaining — a fundamental characteristic of labour relations.

Legally enforceable agreements would mean lawyers would become involved, with long, carefully-worded documents to cover all points in case of court action. Use of the courts would drain unions of their funds and so weaken them, because matters traditionally solved by the parties them-

selves would go to the courts.

The PLP would not support law to cover the recognition or decertification of unions. There had only been a few cases where employers had refused to recognise a union as bargaining agent for workers, and on each occasion there had been peculiar circumstances. The 1978 Willowbank dispute, for example, had arisen because of religious views involved.

Nor would the Opposition support Government supervision of strike or industrial action ballots. It would be an unwarranted incursion of Government into union affairs.

And there would be no support for any proposal to allow a Minister to refer disputes to compulsory arbitration if it was thought to be in the national interest. The right to strike was a principle of democracy which workers around the world had given their lives for.

Mr. Wade believed that the real reason for the Green Paper was because of problems between the hotel employers and their workers. Not only did the paper suggest compulsory arbitration should be considered for hotel disputes, but said consideration should be given to making the hotel industry an essential service.

The hotels were foreign-owned and generally foreign-managed. Foreign investment was welcomed, but such foreigners had to be prepared to fit into the fabric of the community.

Essential services were those that were concerned with the life and good health of the community.

"To put hotels into that category is to fly in the face of history and the whole tradition of labour relations," he said.

The PLP felt that a massive programme of education in labour relations was needed, beginning in the

schools. The public needed to be educated because the Government and employers had put out propaganda to believe that unions were bad.

"A determined effort by Government to correct the political, economic and social imbalance in the community, and the encouragement of Bermudianisation of the decision-makers, especially in the area of tourism, will permit a greater degree of industrial peace than the proliferation of laws and practices which cannot be agreed by all sides," he said.

Mr. Ottiwell Simmons (PLP), the president of the Bermuda Industrial Union, the largest union on the Island, said he believed that the Green Paper had been inspired by employers. There was nothing in the paper in favour of the workers' movement.

"What is here is a plan to weaken the union movement. That is what this is designed to do," he said.

The paper talked about disputes going to arbitration, but there was no consideration of Government providing, for free, the cost of arbitration.

"This is to fleece the unions of their finances because too many cases are likely to go to arbitration and it will become mighty expensive. The BIU has contracts with 70 employers, so it is possible, not feasible, but possible, that the union will go to arbitration 70 times in a year while the employers only have to go once."

Mr. Simmons was particularly angry that the paper made no reference to ratification of International Labour Organisation conventions. Since the formation of the UBP, Ministers had been happy to attend ILO conferences, but the party had not ratified a single convention.

Mr. Harry Viera (UBP) said he was baffled as to why Mr. Simmons "became so hypersensitive and hyperkinetic" about the discussion paper.

"It is extremely unwise and irresponsible for anyone to say that we are trying to outlaw strikes," he said. "We are not attempting to bust unions or to dictate to the captains of industry who to run their business."

"We are trying to inject some sanity into industrial relations."

For anyone to try to head off discussion on this issue of paramount importance "suggests an arrogance that they are untouchable".

Bermuda is uniquely vulnerable, said Mr. Viera. "We survive on one word — image."

It would be an abdication of responsibility to allow the country to drift towards industrial chaos.

Much had been said about declaring the hotel industry an essential service. About 70 percent of Bermuda's revenue came from the hotel industry so a case could be made that it was an essential service for the life and health of the Island.

"We can't afford to have our primary industry in jeopardy," he continued.

Strikes must be predictable and they must be confined to the primary industry. Cooling-off periods should be considered also.

Mr. Viera said he was in favour of Government supervised secret strike ballots.

But whatever form of vote was taken, strikes were now used as a "collective bargaining tool". Workers often voted in favour of a strike, never really intending to go out, in the hope that it would speed up a settlement.

Intelligent people were now trying to get away from confrontation, said Mr. Viera. "Legislation is no substitute for common sense and good will. But unfortunately human nature has not changed very much and we find ourselves drifting into this crisis."

Mr. Stanley Morton (PLB) the Shadow Minister of Tourism had some harsh words for hoteliers who use the threat of closure to compromise workers at the bargaining table.

Everyone can appreciate the "sensitivity" of the hotel industry, said Mr. Morton.

But hotels were using "scare tactics" on their employees. "Hotels have held the country to ransom, shutting up shop when they say so," he said.

Race Issue

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 Jul 83 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts]

White workers are among the most exploited group of employees in Bermuda today, charged Senator David Allen (PLP) yesterday during the Senate debate on the Green Paper on labour relations.

Senator Allen said some white shop workers and office workers employed on Front Street earned not much more than \$100 a week, simply because they refused to join the predominantly black trade unions.

"Some white people are among the most exploited in this country," said Senator Allen. "How they can survive I don't know."

He added that management and em-

ployers put these white employees on pedestals, encouraging them to not join unions. It was behaviour he described as a tragedy, which often resulted in unionised workers being better off than their white counterparts.

"Perhaps these are divide and rule tactics, but they serve to heighten the divisions which already exist between management and labour," said Senator Allen. "It gives an added racial dimension to labour conflicts. This in turn leads to greater instability in this community."

The Senate debate on the Green Paper Labour Relations Law and Practice, A Discussion Paper — began late in the morning and was over before 5 p.m. when a motion "to take note" of the discussion paper was passed unanimously.

Senator Allen said in discussing the paper that legislation bringing into effect binding arbitration may have a negative effect on the community in the long run. He argued that the current method of collective bargaining should be allowed to have "full sway".

Senator Allen questioned the benefit of the provision for the decertification of a union at the workplace, suggesting that there may be cases of workers being pressurised by management to "weed" unions out.

Senator Llewellyn Peniston (UBP) said that labour relations in Bermuda were very often "contentious and abrasive" and had an economic effect on the well-being of the island.

He added that the recent docks dispute had the effect of bringing the entire community into the dispute. "We must stop this tendency for industrial disputes to hold the community at ransom," he said.

It was at this point that Senator Peniston criticised the Bermuda Industrial Union for not permitting a healthy infusion of new ideas through a changing leadership.

"Labourers are encouraged to go out and strike, often for long periods of time," said Sen. Peniston. "This suggests to us a high degree of irresponsibility on behalf of the leadership of the BIU, which does not permit the infusion of new ideas."

Senator Peniston said the leadership of the BIU was in power forever, and suggested that the community would make progress when the leadership was allowed to change.

"I am extremely sympathetic to some form of compulsory arbitration to avoid the spectacle of labour leadership flouting opportunities for the settlement of disputes," said Senator Peniston.

He added that if neither management nor the unions brought with them to the negotiating table attitudes of responsibility, then Government should hold the "trump card" to enforce an element of responsibility.

He suggested that the cornerstone of any labour policy should be supervised secret ballots, and compulsory arbitration.

Senator Jennifer Smith (PLP) said she would have like to have seen in the Green Paper discussion of Government's Bermudianisation policy, and how it fitted into the Island's immigration policy. The presence of non-Bermudians affected the attitudes of working Bermudians and she said there was a fear among Bermudians that they could be replaced by non-Bermudians in their own country.

Senator Charles Collis (UBP) replied that discussion of Bermudianisation was not appropriate in the Green Paper on Labour relations.

OPPOSITION CHARGES 3,000 NAMES LEFT OFF VOTER LIST

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 15 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The much-criticised voter registration system has come under more fire with a Progressive Labour Party MP claiming that about 3,000 names have been left off the list.

Shadow Home Affairs Minister Mr. Frederick Wade said the new list was 1,000 down on last year and is some 3,000 short altogether — figures disputed by Government.

To make matters worse, said Mr. Wade, a PLP "test" on the procedures proved that voters who had submitted their registration forms were left off the list.

"It seems to be getting worse rather than better," said Mr. Wade. "The list seems to be constantly diminishing after registration. The Premier is constantly talking about participatory democracy, but the method by which it takes place seems to be suffering from paralysis."

"It is a shameful state of affairs."

The PLP blamed low

registration for its setbacks in its general election defeat in February.

And the party decided to carry out an experiment in Devonshire to test its claim that eligible voters were being mysteriously left off the list even though they had sent back their forms.

"Our party registered some people in Devonshire and we photocopied their forms to prove they had been sent in," said Mr. Wade. "We found that nine names were left off the final list."

"We went to the Registrar and asked about it. They then promised to do a supplementary list but they have not done this yet."

According to law, voters have a one-month period in which to appeal to the Supreme Court after the list is published on June 15.

"The appeal period expires tomorrow," said Mr. Wade. "We don't know what to do because we have not had a final list."

Mr. Wade questioned the new list in the House of Assembly and he was far from happy with the reply given by the Hon. Sir John Sharpe, Minister for Home

Affairs.

Mr. Wade tackled Sir John again after the House adjourned and he complained that the Minister behaved arrogantly. "I approached him and he just kept walking away and left it."

Sir John replied yesterday that some 106 names had been left off the final list because of a computer error.

"These names will be published within the next few days and will form part of the final list — as is provided for in law," he said.

Voter registration had increased this year by 181 people over the 1982 list used for the General Election. The figures were that 29,958 voters were registered in 1982 and 30,139 were registered on this year's list.

The Minister has asked for a written explanation of the computer error and the steps taken to avoid a recurrence of the same slip-up.

The computer has left names off before and unless corrective measures are taken "confidence in the Parliamentary Register will understandably be undermined".

BRIEFS

DROP IN TELCO EARNINGS--OPERATING earnings at the Bermuda Telephone Company dropped five percent during the past year and general manager Desmond Walker warned shareholders that this decline could continue. He was speaking at the recent annual meeting when income from operations of \$3.93 million was unveiled for the year to March 31, 1983. This is down from \$4.15 million the year before. Mr. Walker told shareholders: "In view of the wage and other increases effective during the present year the rate of decline in net operating revenues can be expected to accelerate unless rates increases are received at an early date." He was referring to the recent rejection of the Price Control Commission of Telco's application to increase its rates. The decision is being appealed by the company. This warning comes as the Telephone Company has completed a multi-million dollar switch to digital technology. The value of the plant has increased by 53 percent. Mr. Walker told shareholders: "in order to achieve a corresponding rate of return on our plant investment to that received in the past, an increase in rates and revenues will be required." But though operating earnings dropped, bottom line profits were boosted by other 'below the line' income. Gain on redemption of debentures and foreign exchange enabled the company to finish the year with profits of \$4 million--down from \$4.09 million the year before. [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 12 Jul 83 p 8]

CSO: 3298/847

MTT PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN 'BASTION '83' EXERCISE


Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 14 Aug 83 p 12

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel Angel Rodriguez Alvarez]

[Text] The Territorial Troop Militia (MTT), set up just over two years ago as the people's immediate response to the first threats by the Reagan administration against the Cuban Revolution, played a major role in the Bastion '83 strategic exercise.

The program of the exercise called for training MTT General Staff officers at the provincial and municipal levels and having small units undertake missions to confront enemy attack.

We have collected some impressions, anecdotes and incidents in different provinces that give the reader an idea of the sense of responsibility and efficiency of the MTT, one of the powerful and dynamic forces of the people in defense of the country and of socialism.

 IN THE same setting of sand, mangrove, woods and marshland of Girón, the scene of the first military defeat suffered by Yankee imperialism in Latin America, Zapata Swamp residents who are members of the MTT were assigned the task of confronting enemy infiltration and defending a stretch of the coast during the Bastión '83 strategic exercise.

The infiltration by sea started at 10:00 p.m. on June 20. It was carried out in small groups whose aim was to capture the town of Pálpite. Six hours later MTT units had taken prisoner nearly all the "invaders," and the rest were unable to move since all access routes to Pálpite were taken over and protected.

An officer who participated in this operation told us, "I was really impressed by the realism of the exercise and by the enthusiasm and fighting spirit of MTT members. I'm sure that if a needle were lost here in the swamp, the MTT members would find it." Among the MTT members making their way through the mud looking for the infiltrators were four elderly men. Lieutenant

Colonel Lázaro Malagón asked them why they were putting themselves through this at their age. One of them retorted, "Look, you tell Fidel that we were determined to do or die at the time of Girón and we still are."

THE CASES DISAPPEARED LIKE MAGIC

The following incident took place in Ciego de Ávila province on the first day of the Bastión '83 exercise.

When the air raid sirens started to wail, the MTT members went to their headquarters right away; nobody sat at home or at work waiting to be called, and the forces were up to full strength ahead of schedule.

A company from the 3rd Battalion of Regiment 500 was given the task of moving all the MTT's weapons and ammunition to the mobilization area.

Those cases disappeared like magic from the depot to the vehicles, said Captain Luis Lombida, who watched in amazement as the company performed the feat in record time.

They were also assigned the task of digging trenches.

An MTT battalion from Chambas was given the same task in Punta Alegre.

They started the hard work and as the hours went by, to their surprise, more and more old people, women and children from the area joined in the digging using their own picks and shovels. Workers at the Bolivia sugar mill also pitched in after work.

'ARE YOU SHAKING, MY OLD MAN?'
'YES, BUT FROM THE COLD!'

Much the same happened in the municipality of Sandino, Pinar del Río province.

Eighty minutes after the alarm had sounded, 95 percent of the MTT members had reported for duty. The only ones missing were the teachers at a junior high school who were ensuring protection for their students. They showed up at headquarters later.

The MTT tasks were carried out in a heavy downpour. The members had to defend a permanent military objective of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) and wipe out an enemy group.

"I was very impressed by many things," Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Zamora said, "among them: the work of veteran platoon commanders who are all internationalists, who directed their men in a really professional manner."

"You should have seen them move into their positions. They seemed like well-trained regulars. I was an officer of the National Revolutionary Militia, and I can safely say that I've never seen the equal of this."

"Quick, precise movements; lots of discipline and organization. I encountered an old man who was shivering in the rain and as gently as I could I asked, 'Are you shaking, my old man?' And, as if to set the record straight, he quickly answered, 'Yes, but from the cold!'"

WE HAD TO ADD ANOTHER BATTERY

In Cabaiguán the 2nd Battalion was six percent over its mobilization target because even the reserve forces wanted to participate. During the first day, MTT members whose units were not included in the exercise reported and had to be turned away; some were not very pleased.

Here the Militia was to protect an economic target from air attack and the assignment was carried out by an antiaircraft battalion from the municipality.

"The workers in the area were pressuring us so much," said Major Arnaldo Pérez. "That we had to add a second battery, that is, a second shift. The motto of production and defense was complied with down to the letter because they worked eight hours and spent the rest of the time in the battery or resting according to plan. Nothing was disrupted."

"Their willingness was such that they were taking 90 seconds to go from their place of work to take up their positions. Some leaders who visited us doubted this was possible so we gave them a demonstration."

"Don't think I didn't have problems with those who weren't mobilized," Major Pérez remarked. "My glasses broke and when I went to have them fixed the employee at the optician's wanted me to call them up."

I HAD LOST THE AMBUSH

MTT members from Baracoa had to participate in mountain defense, struggle against bandits ensconced in the hills and do shooting practice.

Two hours after the alarm was sounded, in spite of the fact that the population there is scattered, 95 percent of the Militia members had reported for duty.

They defended the town of Mosquitero very skillfully. They were fed by area residents who fraternized with "their MTT members." A smiling Major Fernando Morás Troche said proudly that they never had to cook at the command post.

"The cooperation of the farmers in the area reminded me of the struggle in the Sierra Maestra during the war of liberation," he said.

"There is one incident you must write about," he went on. "A local farmer who didn't know about the exercise spotted the 'infiltrators.' He ran a few kilometers to the local Border Patrol post to report that there were 'unknown armed people in the area' and gave all the data required for their capture. This made possible the success of

the operation ahead of schedule because it was carried out by the MTT and Border Patrol together.

"Finally, I want to tell you something that shows how serious this 'game' really was. An ambush was set up. I knew where it was and at night I went to check on it. It was so realistic, their concealment was so effective that I had a lot of trouble finding it; I had lost the ambush!"

I WENT TO CRITICIZE AND ENDED UP CONGRATULATING THEM

In exactly half the time stipulated the MTT forces in Manicaragua had reported, but that wasn't the only impressive thing. They had to dig about 600 meters of trenches in 40 hours and they took 18 and a half without lowering their work standards.

"There would be a lot to say about the enthusiasm, sense of responsibility and dedication with which everyone did their part," Lieutenant Colonel René Socarrás commented, "but I don't think my words could fully convey what went on."

"The people, the MTT and the officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces acquired an amazing amount of experience. I could tell you about thousands of incidents," he continued, "but one is what happened to me with the MTT battalion that was to walk 32 kilometers to defend an economic objective. I drew the route to be followed and they left to reach the target by 8:00 a.m. It was a peacetime itinerary. The objective was not the march itself but to determine the quality of engineering work in circular defense. They arrived a few hours late and when I went to see the commander to criticize him for the delay, he explained quite naturally that they had taken a different route, through the woods, clearing a path with their machetes to avoid ambushes, and they were carrying a lot of heavy equipment."

"My admiration for the commander and his battalion grew. These ordinary men of the people had acted like military professionals and I congratulated them."

'Among the main missions of the militia, in both peacetime and wartime, will be to replace and complete the regular units of the FAR whose combat readiness so requires. Given their knowledge of the terrain and their mobility, they will be especially effective in the struggle against landings from the air; in confronting diversionary groups; participating along with regular troops in combat operations; protecting the route along which FAR units will move; guarding and protecting factories, work places, bridges, railroads, communications links and installations of all sorts; and fulfilling war missions of an irregular nature in occupied territory.'

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro
Guisa, January 20, 1961

PRE-ELECTION UNIFICATION STRATEGY OF LEFT EVALUATED

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 23 Jul 83 p 4

[From "Points to Ponder" column by Pragmatist]

[Text]

There are still a couple of years left before the next general election here (unless Prime Minister Charles opts for a snap poll), but already the electoral strategy of the leftists, as represented by the Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance, is clear. It is summed up in one word: unification.

In their party propaganda organ and at their increasingly frequent public meetings, it is their every second word, their constant theme. Unless all the opposition parties come together, reiterates the Alliance, there is no hope for them.

There is no hope for OLM is what they really mean. If that party were to contest any elections now or in the foreseeable future, they are likely to do as badly as they did in 1980 (less than 2 per cent of all votes cast) and as badly as all other leftist parties in the region have done.

In no Caribbean island have the revolutionary left gained a single seat in any de-

mocratically contested election - except when they are aligned with others.

St. Lucia and Grenada are the two classic examples of this. Neither George Odum's St. Lucia Action Movement (SLAM) nor Morris Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM) were ever able to make any headway with the electorate until they joined forces with well established middle-of-the-road socialist Labour parties of one sort or another.

Fortunately, this is not likely to happen, despite the almost desperate appeals of the OLM for a "united" opposition, knowing that it is in their own interest, indeed, their sole hope.

For the other parties who would have to be involved in this "unification" exercise are well experienced with the "power-at-all-costs" propensities of our local leftists.

It is unlikely that Patrick John and Oliver Seraphin on the one hand, and Michael

Douglas on the other, would risk another involvement.

All three have been burned badly in past associations, and more important, none of the three intends to risk losing the political leadership he now enjoys to the inevitable maneuverings of Para Riviere, Affie Martin, Pierre Charles and the others.

The simple truth is that the left need the labour parties. The labour parties do not need the left. So the left's strategy to push "unification" is not likely to succeed, neither with Labour nor with the people.

Dominicans had their own experience with the left in our interim government of 1979. There is the further experience of St. Lucia and Grenada.

Dominicans are far more intelligent and have far more foresight than the DLM would like to believe. They shall not be fooled.

CSO: 3298/848

PAPER ASSESSES 1983-84 BUDGET, URGES INNOVATION

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 23 Jul 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

Prime Minister Charles's 1983/84 budget was undoubtedly one of consolidation on the achievements of the past two years, as she put it.

In her address she chided the private sector for not being more creative and innovative, calling on them to get more involved in export-oriented manufacturing.

This appeal, valid as it is, touches on the very spirit of free enterprise that is, how is an individual or group of individuals going to invest their money? Are they going to invest in the trading and commercial sector, or are they going to get involved in manufacturing?

In a small economy like ours with its disadvantages of inadequate infrastructure, small markets, and above all, the lack of an entrepreneurial tradition, the tendency has been, and will continue to be, to get involved in the commercial sector.

To reverse this and encourage local firms into manufacturing, innovative measures and overt incentives are required.

Like private sector performance therefore, it appears that the budget too, despite its practicality, lacks that innovation needed to make the difference.

For example, it is unfair to expect manufacturing industries to pay the same business tax rate of 40 per cent as the ordinary trading enterprises.

It is true that tax-holidays are granted to such industries. However, long after these holidays are over and capital has been recuperated, manufacturing industries must keep abreast with new technologies and market tastes and needs, demanding a higher re-investment ratio than trading concerns.

Similarly, passionate appeals to increase productivity will have little effect unless workers see tangible rewards for their extra effort. Workers, like entrepreneurs, will generally exert extra effort and creativity only if rewarded accordingly. This after all is

the essence of free enterprise. One such incentive could be a reduction in, or elimination of the tax on overtime pay.

When this particular measure was suggested by Senator Julius Timothy, who used Jamaica as an example, Prime Minister Charles flippantly brushed it aside saying the measure was responsible for Jamaica's present economic difficulties.

That was an unfair assessment on the part of the Prime Minister since the measure was introduced by Mr. Seaga only two months ago in his 1983/84 budget and is in fact part and parcel of an attempt to reverse Jamaica's present economic difficulties.

With the C.B.I. passed, it is clear that innovative measures on the part of government are required to facilitate private sector creativity and increase worker productivity, so as to meet the challenges ahead posed by C.B.I.

CSO: 3298/848

FMLN-FDR STRATEGY DESIGNED TO CHANGE U.S. POLICY

Paris REVOLUTION in French 22 Jul 83 p 16

[Interview with Enrique Guatemala by Bernard Umbrecht: "El Salvador: the Creation of a Revolutionary Army"; date of interview: end of June; place not given]

[Text] Ronald Reagan recently refused to rule out the possibility that the United States might intervene directly in El Salvador. The last half of the year promises to be decisive in the region. Enrique Guatemala, who supplies our commentary, is a member of the international relations commission of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN-FDR).

[Question] How would you describe the present situation in El Salvador? Elections have been held, and that's been forgotten. The guerilla war has taken its toll. There is a crisis in the government army. Is this the status quo?

Enrique Guatemala: Militarily, the present situation is essentially one of advances by the FMLN. This is shown by its approach to towns, the growth of military units, and the formation of a revolutionary army. In contrast, the army of the Salvadoran government is in a state of moral and political collapse. Its regular units are incapable of taking part in large-scale operations against the FMLN.

This is a very important aspect, because elite troops are the only support of the Salvadoran army. These troops are being forced to perform such tasks as guarding bridges or doing police work. That creates an advantageous situation for us, because it allows us to maintain a strategic initiative and keep the Salvadoran army in defensive positions. It may be the beginning of its total collapse. The Reagan administration thus found itself obliged to draw up a new plan, a military one with elections as a political cover.

The Americans' immediate objective is to gain time in order to train new elite battalions for combat and try to retake the offensive.

[Question] Does this mean that the Salvadoran government is completely out of it? And what are these elite battalions?

Enrique Guatemala: That's right. A military solution is being prepared because there is no possibility of a military solution. There are presently 5 elite battalions of a thousand men each. They are distinguished by training in antiguerrilla techniques and mobility. They are swift-strike units. The elite troops were originally conceived of as being units in charge of cleaning out zones controlled by the FMLN after offensives carried out by the national army.

But these elite troops are now obliged to take over missions that the national army cannot perform. These military and political difficulties that the Salvadoran regime is having are leading the United States to try to play for time. As a result, elections have been organized to set up a government to legalize the plan of massively eliminating the FMLN forces and pacifying the country. The elections are also intended to tranquilize Congress on the matter of the quest for a political solution. The elections are a way to stall for time, that's what they mean. For this reason, too, Richard Stone, Ronald Reagan's roving ambassador to Central America, has begun to talk about dialogue with the guerillas in order to calm down Congress and get international support.

[Question] Has there been a meeting between Richard Stone and the Front?

Enrique Guatemala: Not yet. There has been nothing concrete. We are planning for this possibility. We have made a direct proposal to Richard Stone in order to force the U.S. administration to commit itself on the matter of a political solution. There has been no serious response.

[Question] Why has a revolutionary army been formed?

Enrique Guatemala: At the beginning, the struggle of the Salvadoran people was directed towards a victory over the military dictatorship, and we foresaw a confrontation with North American imperialism after this victory was achieved. However, the fact that the Americans have not managed to win victories in other areas of the world has led them to seek one in Central America.

This situation explains the widening of the war and the transition from the phase of popular insurrection to that of revolutionary warfare. The Salvadoran army is receiving more and more technical and economic aid. That has forced us to develop, too. The struggle is becoming more and more a military one. We now have the problem of incorporating the masses into the revolutionary army as well as into the services or liaison structures between the army and the social organization. That is the outlook for the next 6 months, when the direction of the war will be decided. In the next phase, our tactic will be to put the elite battalions to rout in order to force the Americans to make a decision on the situation in El Salvador. Either there will be direct and massive intervention or a process of negotiation will be started.

[Question] In short, it is now a matter between the Front and the United States?

Enrique Guatemala: Yes. Our movement has taken the form of a war of national liberation.

[Question] How much territory does the Front control, and how are things organized there?

Enrique Guatemala: The Front controls about two-fifths of the territory. There are also zones of political expansion, where we have some political hold, and zones disputed by the two sides. In the zones of control, a people's government and civil administration are being created; they are based on popular assemblies. There is a sort of division of labor between the military and political structures.

[Question] Have you managed to get some kind of economy going? What is it based on?

Enrique Guatemala: There is an economy based on the production of cereals and vegetables for food in the zones of control, but none of these zones is self-sufficient. Hence the logistic corridors linking them to the outside.

[Question] Is the increased role that the United States has assigned to Honduras causing you extra trouble?

Enrique Guatemala: All the reinforcements in Honduras are intended to train troops in antiguerrilla techniques, but our impetus is stronger than the enemy's. That leads us to believe that when the Americans have trained new elite battalions, we will have already struck a blow at those that now exist. The new ones will have to fill the gap.

[Question] It's a bit of a race.

Enrique Guatemala: Exactly. We are going through a very important period. The possibility of American intervention is on the agenda. Hence the importance of the World Solidarity Front's sticking with El Salvador against such intervention.

8782

CSO: 3319/6

GOVERNMENT-OWNED FORMER HOLIDAY INN REFURBISHED, SET TO OPEN

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 23 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] THE locally-owned Grenada Beach Hotel in Grand Anse, formerly owned by Commonwealth Holiday Inn of Canada, will be officially opened next Sunday afternoon.

The hotel, which was partially destroyed by fire in September 1981 was bought by the People's Revolutionary Government earlier this year and is being renovated at an approximate cost of \$500,000.

Andre Cherman, the hotel's new manager, said 150 of its 184 rooms will be available to guests by August 1. There are already some guests booked for Friday for the long August weekend, he added.

Cherman disclosed that work on the burn-out section, which includes the main kitchen and the other rooms, will begin early next year.

Some \$1.2 million in kitchen equipment, such as cutlery, glasses and linen, and furniture for the hotel arrived from Britain on Wednesday.

About 60 to 70 workers, most of them employed at the hotel when the fire occurred, will be taken on initially, he said.

At present, about 40 workmen are now putting the finishing touches to the front office, kitchen and roof of the burnt-out section. Cleaning up of the grounds and rooms is also being done.

Now that the hotel is locally-owned, Cherman said, it will emphasise local drinks and food, but there will be international menus as well.

The new name was chosen for three reasons: it gets visitors to focus on the destination, the hotel is located directly on the beach, and it was initially known by that name.

The hotel, the largest in Grenada, will seek to cater for a broad section of tourists at attractive rates, Cherman added.

He revealed that it has decided to reduce its rates 20 per cent below the average charged by other hotels in the island.

Cherman, a Grenadian who has been working in the hotel industry in the Caribbean and Canada for the past 13 years, says he expects the hotel to make a big difference to the country's tourist industry.

"We expect to do very good business with the opening of the international airport at Point Salines next March", he said

The hotel will be opened in time to accomodate the many visitors from North America, Europe and the Caribbean, who are expected here next month for Carnival and other activities, such as a conference of the American Association of Jurists.

CSO: 3298/849

BRIEFS

CARRIACOU MANEUVERS--THE Recent "Marshie Williams Defence of the Homeland" manoeuvre in the sister island of Carriacou, has been termed the most disciplined and well-organised manoeuvre ever held in the nation. The manoeuvre was named after Fitzroy "Marshie" Williams, a former People's Revolutionary Army (PRA) soldier and firm supporter of the Revolution, who died in an accident in Carriacou late last year. Marshie was described as an outstanding soldier and an activist in community development and in mobilising people to try their best to develop themselves. A report on the manoeuvre said that one of its most outstanding aspects was the number of children under 12 years taking part, most of whom expressed sincere intention to fight side by side with adults if their country is invaded. Another outstanding aspect was the participants' persistence and discipline. Whereas in previous manoeuvres people were asking to go home to bathe and care their animals, this time such requests were absent. The three days spent in the terrain were serious ones during which the people demonstrated their full awareness and combative preparedness. Carriacou calypsonian [Grandis] "Lion" Joseph said the manoeuvres linked people together to preserve the Revolution and the tremendous gains it has brought. On its final day, there was target practice with live ammunition, which further demonstrated the Carriacounans' dexterity with the various weapons. The exercise culminated in a mini-motorcade through Carriacou with high-spirited chanting, followed by a rally at Hillsborough. [St Georges FREE WAST INDIAN in English 23 Jul 83 p 6]

CSO: 3298/849

TAXI DRIVERS WHO SUPPORTED SPA PROTEST HARASSED BY GOVERNMENT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 83 p5

[Text] GEORGETOWN, Thurs., (Cana)--TAXI-DRIVERS in Guyana, many of whom heeded last week's Opposition call for a one-day strike, have found themselves the butt of a new police campaign against unroadworthy vehicles.

Police have ordered more than 100 taxi-drivers to report for what the Government's Traffic Department said were checks to ensure that the vehicles were in proper working order.

But spokesmen for the taxi-owners have accused the police of taking retaliatory action against those who supported the day of protest organised by the Working People's Alliance (WPA), to demonstrate resentment of continuing shortages of certain basic food items.

A statement from the Traffic Department said the taxis were being checked "because of the increased number of accidents and road fatalities. The department is also concerned about the general misuse of the roads and the carelessness of some drivers."

The statement said the police were aware of vehicle owners' difficulties in acquiring spare parts (due to Guyana's continuing chronic foreign exchange shortage), but while "this is being considered, there is also the population of injured persons to be taken into consideration."

It said the State-run Guyana Transport Services has recently put new 'buses into operation, and commuters should take full advantages of this facility.

The National Hired Car Drivers' Association, reacting to the statement, charged that certain traffic policemen were harassing the taxi-drivers. The association alleged that in some cases they were doing so to solicit funds for themselves.

There have been cases, the association said, in which vehicles seized, were released almost immediately, if the drivers paid over sums ranging from \$20 to \$40, while in other cases, the vehicles were held for more than 24 hours on simple charges of defective wipers, tail lamps or number plates.

Police, however have described these allegations as absurd.

BRIEFS

NAVY TO REPAIR, EQUIP WARSHIPS--Lima, 22 Aug (AFP)--It was reported in Lima today that the Peruvian Navy will repair and equip in Amsterdam its main warship, the cruiser Almirante Grau, through a \$116.5-million contract. The weekly THE LIMA TIMES, which is usually a reliable source in economic affairs, has reported that an agreement was made with ADM [expansion unknown] and a Phillips subsidiary, Hollandse Signaal. The latter will be in charge of equipping the ship with electronic equipment. Lastly, the weekly stated that the Peruvian Navy plans to equip seven other destroyers with this electronic equipment. This will be accomplished thanks to an investment, which, added to the one previously cited will reach \$600 million over a period of 3 to 5 years. [Text] [PY231414 Paris AFP in Spanish 2244 GMT 22 Aug 83]

CSO: 3348/622

SIMMONDS COMMENTS ON INDEPENDENCE-RELATED ISSUES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jul 83 p 12

[Text] BASSETERRE, Thurs. (Cana)--ST. KITTS-NEVIS, the last remaining British Associated State in the English-speaking Caribbean, gains political independence in just under two month's time, with the three major parties divided on the timing as well as the deal given to the smaller island--Nevis.

The Opposition Labour Party, which had ruled the State for 27 years prior to a stunning electoral defeat in 1980, contends that the Coalition Government made up of the People's Action Movement (PAM) and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP), does not have a mandate to go ahead with Independence before new elections.

But Prime Minister-designate, Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, says that fresh elections are not necessary since the parties had agreed during the last campaign that Independence, was, at least desirable, and indeed, inevitable.

Concern

A new dimension to the Independence issue, however, has been a concern expressed by Dr Simmonds himself that the country will not be able to defend itself.

"We are unable to defend ourselves and so then, we can be at the mercy of mercenaries and other international agents," said Dr. Simmonds.

He added: "Then, there is what I call a natural concern over the general economic situation in the world and how we as a small developing country can cope with it."

St. Kitts, the first Caribbean island to be settled by Europeans more than 350 years ago; will be known as the Federation of St. Christopher-Nevis--the third Independent twin-island State in the Caribbean, after Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda.

On September 19, the 269-square kilometre state will end 16 years of British Associated Statehood under as divisive a cloud of controversy as that which followed its voluntary association with Britain in 1967.

Perhaps the main bone of contention is the so-called Nevis settlement, which gives the smaller island--95 square kilometres and a population of less than 10,000--a greater say in the running of its own affairs.

In addition, the island, which will have Dr. Simmonds's coalition partner, Simeon Daniel, leader of the NRP as Premier, will also have a larger voice in the independent country's Parliament.

The Labour Party has charged that Nevis will benefit too much from the new constitutional arrangements and has insisted that despite its larger size, St. Kitts could play a subservient role to Nevis that may eventually lead to the dismemberment of the State.

However, the Government has rejected the suggestions and submitted that the settlement with Nevis could be seen throughout the Caribbean as a model for resolving conflicts among multi-island states.

Dr. Simmonds has said that the constitutional arrangements have been designed to give some protection to the minority and the small state, a proper voice in the affairs of the country.

There had been some fears that given St. Kitts size, greater economic resources and high level of development, Nevis would be swamped and there could be a resurgence of the secession question.

But Dr. Simmonds expressed confidence that his Government has dealt adequately with the problem.

Anguilla's Future

"It is clear that we have dealt with it up to this point, because there was grave disunity in 1979," he said. "In fact, the secession of Nevis was all but accomplished, because in 1979 at the (preliminary Independence) conference in London, it was decided that the state would proceed to Independence as early as possible in 1980 and 18 months after that, there would be a referendum on Nevis, at which they would decide whether they would want to secede or not."

He added: "I don't think too many of us have any doubt about what the outcome would have been. So, the fact that we have averted that and reached to the point where we have produced together a Constitution for moving forward into Independence is evidence that we have averted it up to this point, and I am hoping that the same spirit and the same co-ordination and co-operation which have existed up to this point can continue."

On the question of Anguilla, which formed part of the state up to 1967, Dr Simmonds said he did not think that it would return to the fold.

"I am quite certain in my mind, but, again, had we had an opportunity to draft a Constitution--maybe 10, 15 years ago--that we might have been able to bring Anguilla back into the fold, but as I said, we have to take things as they are, not as we wish they were," he said.

Anguilla's future may well be decided at some other time, but St. Kitts-Nevis will at midnight on September 19 lower the green, yellow and blue vertically striped flag, adopted in 1967, and raise the new symbol of nationhood--a green, yellow, black and red standard.

The old coat of arms has been modified for post-Independence use, while the motto--"Unity is trinity"--used before Anguilla's secession, will be changed to--"country above self." A new national anthem has also been chosen.

Britain will be represented at official functions during the Independence celebrations by Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II.

Two of the State's best known figures in international entertainment, black American actress Cicely Tyson, who is of Nevisian parentage, and U.K.-based singer, Joan Armatrading, are also expected in the state for the celebrations.

Miss Tyson is expected to officially declare open the restored Hamilton House, the birthplace of Alexander Hamilton, first Treasury Secretary of the United States.

CSO: 3298/851

SIMMONDS SEES CARICOM AS VEHICLE FOR NATIONAL GROWTH

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Jul 83 p 19

[Text] ROSEAU, Tues., (Cana)--PREMIER of St Kitts-Nevis, Dr Kennedy Simmonds, has support for the regional integration movement "as a vehicle for national growth and development."

Addressing the 15th annual convention of the ruling Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) in the village of Delices, 45 miles east of here, Mr. Simmonds, whose twin-island State becomes independent in September, said there was a need for continued support for the Caribbean Community (Caricom) if the region was to survive.

"Believe me when I tell you that we can make it in this harsh and unrelenting world if we pull together and strengthen the process of Caribbean integration," he added.

"Have faith in it, and support the efforts of your leaders, to use the regional integration movement as a vehicle for national growth and development.

Boldly

He added: "My brothers and sisters, we must join hands as a Caribbean people and strive together to bring a better quality of life to all our people.

"Don't expect riches, do not promise a bed of roses but if we strike out boldly to the sky we can certainly together reach the stars."

Dr Simmonds said that even within the broad framework of Caricom, the smaller States of the Eastern Caribbean had grouped themselves together, "giving recognition to the fact that even in the general framework of poor, developing countries we share special problems peculiar to our size, our colonial history of single-crop economies and our small market."

Free Choice

He added; "The message of Caribbean solidarity must go out from here and spread throughout Dominica and the region.

It is a message which must transcend partisan boundaries because it is a peoples message".

The St Kitts-Nevis leader also spoke about defence and security. "We who inhabit small independent States are vulnerable to the perils of adventurism from within and from without", he said, adding: "Our surest defence is not our force of arms..."

He said this was so because of the basic problems confronting the small countries, mainly in the area of finance. "Our surest defence is a vigilant and determined people committed to preserving their right of free choice and to abhor violence and spurn subversion."

CSO: 3298/851

UNMARRIED WOMEN EMPLOYEES GAIN EQUALITY OF STATUS

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 23 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] SEVERAL hundred women employed in the Civil Service of the State this week had a longstanding discriminatory practice affecting them removed.

All unmarried females working for the Establishment in the professions such as Nursing, Teaching, The Police Force, and Clerical Appointments in the Public Service will now qualify for treatment equal to that accorded to the married women working for the Government.

For 1982, there were some 2,233 persons employed in the Civil Service, and of that number it is reliably estimated that no fewer than about 600 are unmarried women, (although the number will never remain the same for long).

In the past, women who were not married were forced to RESIGN their Government jobs if they became pregnant, although married women were granted the privilege of one (1) month's maternity leave with pay, in addition to any other accumulated leave available to them. The unmarried mother could reapply for her Government job, but she had to wait for one (1) year, and the break in her service meant she had to start all over to acquire "long service" pension rights.

The Cabinet has considered representations made by a number of women's organisations, including the Business and Professional Women of St. Kitts (B.P.W.), and has changed Government policy so that unmarried women appointed to the Civil Service will be entitled to maternity leave, and will no longer be required to give up their livelihood.

This decision is considered by many to be a much needed relief for an unfair and old-fashioned penalty designed for a rigid society not in keeping with a modern outlook or with the new INDEPENDENCE Constitution which seeks to remove the stigma of illegitimacy and discrimination of women.

CSO: 3298/851

BRIEFS

ISLAND FLAGS--Cabinet has decided that St. Kitts and Nevis will have island colours. The island colour will bear the National Flag in the top left hand canton or quarter of the Flag. The other cantons will bear a design, symbolic of the respective island. The Protocol in respect of the usage of the island colours, will be established. It should however be noted that the National Flag will take the place of honour, at all times. [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 23 Jul 83 p 1]

MEDICAL SCHOOL--Ground is being cleared for the construction in St. Kitts of this State's first tertiary-level educational institution. Government has attracted an offshore Medical School which will prepare medical students for full qualifications to enter the medical profession at American standards. The ROSS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE will be established at West Farm Estate, about three miles west of Basseterre, on the site of agricultural lands seized by the Labour Government in 1974 under a State of Emergency. The advent of this Facility will generate a program of assistance to our local Hospitals to cater to the practical side of the tuition. The School is targetted for completion in October 1983. [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 23 Jul 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/851

CITIZENS URGE GOVERNMENT TO REPORT ON UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 23 Jul 83 p 3

[Advertisement]

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Dear Mr. Prime Minister and Cabinet Members,

You are now in your second year of office and we would like to be informed on a variety of matters. The lack of information leads to suspicion. Please remove this suspicion. It is our right to be informed.

1. What is the status of the Passport Scandal. What happened about the imminent apprehension of the absconding ex-police officer.
2. There are rumours that a new Consumption tax Bill is to be put to Parliament which will have the effect of an across the board cost of living increase. Is this true and if so why.
3. What is the status of your much proclaimed reorganization of the Civil Service. Has it been commenced?
4. Why has cement been handed back to private industry. Is it because Government was losing

money or is this a fulfilment of Government's policy. Please tell us.

5. How can the Minister of Agriculture justify taking on another onerous, time consuming job with its potential for conflict of interest with his Ministerial function. Is he saying that he has done all he can in the Ministry and there is nothing left to do?
6. Medical services – a mess of fatal proportions. What are you doing about it?

Please tell us. We want to know. We have a right to know.

CONCERNED CITIZENS.

CSO: 3298/835

EDITORIAL ASSESSES PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN OPERATION

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 23 Jul 83 p 2

[Editorial: "A New Tool in Pursuit of Justice"]

[Text]

IN recent weeks we have been hearing quite a bit about the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman), one of the more important provisions of the Constitution which was adopted in 1979 when St. Lucia became independent.

This is an additional avenue — which was never there before — open to the public to seek redress if they feel they have been treated unfairly by any public servant.

Yet, as Mr. Hunter Francois says in his first report which was recently presented to Parliament, St. Lucians are not making adequate use of this Office.

On the surface, it could be interpreted that St. Lucia's record is such that there are not many complaints to require the attention of the Ombudsman. But is this really the case?

In recent times, there has been a tendency in this country to take allegations to the streets where maximum mischief can be obtained and nothing resolved rather than to the various institutions and agencies which are in fact competent to deal with them. Where are those people, for instance, who are said to be victims of acts of victimisation by public officials? Have they not heard of the Parliamentary Commissioner's office?

It is our view that the office of Parliamentary Commissioner is competent to deal with complaints of a "public" nature. It is, too, a very powerful office, so powerful that the Constitution provides severe penalties for anyone who "wilfully obstructs, hinders or resists the Commissioner without lawful justification or excuse."

The office of Parliamentary Commissioner is there to ensure better all-round Government. If the well being of society is to be properly catered for public confidence in the administration of the law is of the greatest importance.

Individuals must be confident that the powers of State will be exercised fairly, and in accordance with natural justice and the rule of law. The power and the authority of the State are administered by individuals, and by reason of human error alone mistakes and misjudgments must necessarily occur. As society and government become more complex, the office of Parliamentary Commissioner is an additional tool for the protection of civil rights.

We commend the efforts by the Parliamentary Commissioner himself to spread the news about the service offered by his office and wish to exhort more St. Lucians to use this tool in their continued pursuit of justice.

BRITON IMPLICATED BY COMPTON IN LIBYAN PLOT ISSUES DENIAL

Castries THE VOICE in English 27 Jul 83 p 14

[Advertisement]

TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF ST. LUCIA

I FIRMLY DENY THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN A RECENT ADDRESS, THAT I HAVE HAD ANY INVOLVEMENT IN THE ALLEGED TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR A GROUP OF YOUNG MEN TO LEAVE THIS STATE TO GO TO LIBYA.

THE ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST ME ARE TOTALLY FALSE AND ARE A GRAVE INJUSTICE TO ME. THEY ARE EVEN MORE DAMAGING IN THAT THEY HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF, AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY. AS A RESULT OF THESE STATEMENTS, MY FAMILY HAS BEEN THREATENED AND MY REPUTATION DAMAGED.

I HAVE LIVED IN ST. LUCIA FOR 16 YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME I HAVE NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THIS STATE. INSTEAD, I HAVE WORKED HARD, CREATED EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE IN ST. LUCIA AND I HAVE TRIED TO CONDUCT MY BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER.

I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS MISINFORMED AND THAT THIS EPISODE IS NOT A FORM OF VICTIMISATION.

**D.G. ENGLAND,
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
NOAH'S ARCADE LTD.**

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TRADE GAP FOR 6 MONTHS ENDING LAST MARCH NARROWS

Castries THE VOICE in English 27 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

THERE are indications here that the Government's recent call on St Lucians to curb their imports and produce more for export is meeting with success.

The island's trade gap appears to be narrowing over the past six months ending last March according to figures published by the Government's Statistical Department.

Exports (including re-exports) on the other hand, rose from \$24.4 million for the first three months of last year to \$39.7 million this year.

The 1983 figures were also better in both respects to those for the last quarter of 1982. This year's imports are down by \$20 million dollars while exports for the first quarter of this year show a \$10 million increase over the figure for October to December last year.

The Government's has repeatedly called on St. Lucians to strive to narrow the trade gap since its return to power 14 months ago.

The latest occasion was last April when Prime Minister John Compton presented his Government's fiscal budget to Parliament. Revealing that the island had an adverse balance of trade of \$200 million, he asked: "How can we continue to live beyond our means without paying the supreme penalty of economic collapse?"

To prevent this, he said, St.

Lucians must produce and export more while at the same time exercising restraint in their imports.

The biggest decrease in imports this year was in the area of manufactured goods which was down \$22 million over the figure for the first quarter of last year. Machinery and transport equipment also decreased significantly from \$16.4 million last year to \$9.6 million this year.

On the other hand, St. Lucia's exports of food and live animals was up this year by \$2 million, manufactured goods by \$3 million and machinery and transport equipment by \$8 million, the increase in the latter due mainly to re-exports.

According to the report, most of St. Lucia's imports continue to come from the United States. However, there was a significant drop in purchases from that market during the first quarter of this year. During that period, imports registered a mere \$19.5 million compared to \$45.7 million last year and

\$28.5 million in the last quarter of 1982.

Exports to the United States also fell this year by \$1 million compared with the first quarter of last year.

By comparison, St. Lucia imported \$2 million less to the CARICOM region between January and March this year than it did last year and exported \$2 million more to that market this year.

However, the biggest increase in exports this year was to the non Commonwealth Caribbean countries, mainly Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands where a \$10 million hike was recorded. Exports to the European Economic Community (EEC) also rose by \$3 million, mainly to the United Kingdom.

Trinidad, Jamaica, Dominica and Barbados, in that order, were St. Lucia's biggest CARICOM markets during the first quarter of 1983 while Trinidad, Barbados and St. Vincent took the bulk of the island's CARICOM import trade.

BRIEFS

WATER CONTAMINATION BY FARMERS--KINGSTOWN, Thurs., (Cana)--VINCENTIAN farmers, cultivating lands too close to one of the main water catchment areas at Montreal, about 12 miles north-east of Kingstown, have been asked to vacate the lands. The Ministries of Health and Trade and Agriculture said the use of insecticides, fungicides and other chemicals in the lands endangered the lives of citizens. Last month, three men used an insecticide to kill crayfish close to a main water supply intake here, forcing the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) to lock-off distribution to Kingstown and its suburbs for almost a day, while the system was purified. Since then, there have been calls for tighter security at water supply sources. The Ministry of Agriculture said it had served the occupants with notices to vacate the area on numerous occasions, the latest being two years ago, but that to date no one had complied with the request. The ministry said it had now been instructed by Cabinet to take whatever action it felt necessary to get the farmers out. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jul 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/852

POLITICAL LEADERS INVOLVED IN LOCAL ELECTIONS CAMPAIGNING

Panday at Alliance Convention

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 83 pp 1, 15

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text] OPPOSITION LEADER Basdeo Panday told his supporters at the National Alliance convention last night that they must seize the opportunity to treat the local government elections as a referendum.

"You are either for corruption or against corruption. You are either for the Sam P. Wallace bribery or you are against it. Either for the DC-9 scandal or against it. Either for the independence of the Judiciary or against it," Mr. Panday told the Alliance convention held at the Rienzi Complex, Couva, at which the Alliance candidates for the August 8 elections were presented.

Mr. Panday told his listeners: "If you are for corruption, dictatorship, maladministration and inefficiency, then you vote for the PNM. If you are against these things, then you vote for the Opposition--whether it be ONR or the Alliance."

He said: "I am sure you have realised that Prime Minister George Chambers himself recognises the national importance of these local government elections. He knows he has by his bungling lost the confidence of the people. He wants a mandate, and he wants it badly."

He asked: "How else will he be able to further reduce subsidies and send up prices even further? How else will he be able to raise taxes to satisfy the big boys in the PNM? How else will he be able to give away more and more money to fascist Burnham and Guyana? He needs you to confirm that you like it so. The choice is yours."

The Opposition Leader said that "We at the leadership level have done all in our power to lay for you the foundations for victory. The rest is now up to you--the candidates and our supporters. You are in an extremely strong position to bring home that victory, and you must do it with dignity and decorum. Do not degenerate to gutter politics."

Not having anything with which to go to the people, the PNM, he said, was resorting to the most degrading campaign to hold on to power. He charged that the PNM was trying to whip up and revive the historic racial tensions and suspicions among the peoples," upon which they have relied so often to win elections," thank God he said, they have failed

Mr. Panday recalled that during the debate on his motion of no confidence in the Prime Minister for his unwarranted attack on the Judiciary, the PNM did their best to introduce racism into the proceedings, but, he added they failed again.

He said they have come to understand that politics is about water and roads and electricity and houses. It is about jobs and retrenchment, about high prices and about demolition of people's homes.

The PNM, he added, realising it may have to "fish elsewhere for red herrings," had Kamaluddin Mohammed launch his boat on troubled waters. Mr. Panday said that Mr. Mohammed, a former Minister of Local Government, has said that if the Opposition controls the local government bodies, the PNM-controlled central government would starve them of funds.

"What Kamal is in fact telling the electorate," Mr. Panday said "is that they have no right to remove the PNM from office even though they are inefficient.

"Without knowing it, Kamal has, in fact, told you that you have now lost your democratic right to be ruled by a government of your choice. When we told you that one day you will wake up and discover that PNM had taken away your freedom, you thought we were joking," he said.

Alliance Strategy

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

FIRST PRIORITY in the forthcoming Local Government elections is to drive the PNM, lock, stock and barrel, out of Alliance strongholds, and that has been described as one of the election strategies of the National Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Michael Harris, an executive member of Alliance, spoke on the manifesto on Saturday night during the Alliance convention at Rienzi Complex, Couva, and touched on the many issues in the document.

According to the electoral strategy the Alliance Party of parties will have to pursue a course of bringing all the existing parties under one umbrella.

It was disclosed that they may see other parties throw off their "cocoons" and try to spread their wings.

"The immediate question which arises, of course, is just how do we accomplish that? How do we persuade the other parties, and by extension, the other communities in our country, to enter the fold? That is the most vital, the most critical,

the most crucial question that arises from all that has been said."

On the question of a democratic organisation, the answer comes in two parts, according to the Alliance.

"In the first place, we must seek to persuade the other parties in the country by the manner in which we conduct our business. We must so conduct our affairs that none who looks upon us from outside can doubt that ours is a completely democratic organisation...."

The second part of the answer is, at this time, of far greater urgency.

"It brings us right up against the whole question of electoral strategy. For we shall persuade the other parties to join us, if and when we emerge, without the slightest shadow of a doubt, not simply as the most formidable opponent of the

ruling party, but as the only viable alternative to the ruling party.

"In other words, we must strive for a situation in which there are, in terms of electoral strength, only two choices; the present discredited regime of the 1950s and the Alliance.

"And all those who belong to neither one nor to the other will have no other option. They will be able to see no other realistic alternative but to take a side. That is the answer."

Support From Tobagans

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

TOBAGONIANS are coming to Trinidad to give full support to the National Alliance in preparation for the August 8 Local Government elections. Politics is a serious thing, "and when we say we are coming, we are coming" said Mr. Hochoy Charles, Leader of Tobago House of Assembly, on Saturday night.

Mr Charles was extending greetings from Tobago to the Alliance convention at Rhenzi Complex in Couva. He apologised for the absence of Mr A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of Tobago House of Assembly.

"We are prepared in Tobago to be here with you, not only in spirit, but in person, during the next two weeks of your campaign," he assured the large audience.

He said when they in Tobago made up their minds to do something, they committed their souls and minds to do it. There was no question of intimidation, as far as they were concerned.

He recalled that the last document that Dr. Williams received in Parliament was the report of the salaries for Tobago House of Assembly.

He said they, too, had to fight to win their struggle against the PNM.

Mr Charles told his audience that Trinidadians were not intimidated half as much as Tobagonians. He wanted to share some of those experiences with them, and referred to newspaper clippings to a particular threat alleged to have been made by Mr Kamaluddin Mohammed.

Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production," somewhere in Trinidad recently".

He said those threats were actually made to Tobagonians. He referred to the campaign by the PNM in Tobago in 1977, when threats made in public did not daunt Tobagonians.

' OLD TALK '

That statement allegedly made by Mr Mohammed was merely to frighten Trinidadians, to intimidate them. From experience that was only old talk.

Despite the threats to cut off certain services the people of Tobago, claiming that they controlled the treasury, the people of Tobago still voted DAC, said Mr Charles.

"If you vote for the Alliance, that is the only way this Government could respect the Opposition in Trinidad," he told the cheering supporters.

Mr Charles spoke of the progress Tobago was making since the DAC took control of the island. He said that for 25 years, Tobago had been neglected the same way certain parts of Trinidad were for the past 27 years.

Appeal to Tenant Group

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Jul 83 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

OPPOSITION LEADER Basdeo Panday has issued a call to members of the Land Tenants Association to support the Alliance and the Organisation of National Reconstruction in the August 8 Local Government elections.

Mr. Panday addressed the Land Tenants Association on Sunday at Marabella together with Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, leader of the ONR.

The Opposition Leader told the meeting of the struggles to introduce amendments to the Land Tenants Security Amendment Bill but their pleas were rejected.

He said: "I thought that the wisest thing to do was to invite the senior legal adviser to the association, Hudson-Phillips, to go into the Senate to carry the

struggle there. We thought it was a good move.

He said:

"Since we consider the whole question of land reform and land for the landless and squatters, we believe that it is a political problem which requires a political solution.

"Therefore, the land

tenants must be concerned with the politics and they must be involved in the political struggle.

"I call upon all of you to support Opposition and vote for the ONR or Alliance in the respective electoral districts."

Mr. Hudson-Phillips urged them to get involved in the political struggle.

Humphrey Assassination Charge

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

OPPOSITION Parliamentarian John Humphrey told a political meeting in Curepe that guns were brought into the country to assassinate Government Ministers in the event that he was assassinated. The controversial MP for St. Augustine (National Alliance) claimed that his life was being threatened and he made certain arrangements in anticipation that he might be killed.

He told the audience: "I said no Walter Rodney experience for John Humphrey. No way. When they threatened my life I made arrangements that in the event they kill me, which is exactly what I was anticipating they will do, just like they killed Rodney, in the event they kill me, every single Minister, every one of those 22 ministers, would be assassinated.

"That's the arrangement I made. And I announced the arrangement at a public meeting. I announced the arrangement and John Donaldson (Minister of National Security) got the tape and he played it for his Cabinet colleagues and I tell you again we have made those arrangements. (applause).

"We have brought a certain number of guns into this country and ammunition to be used with those guns that in the event I am assassinated, those guns would be distributed to certain people who in fact, don't want to wait for my assassination. I might tell you and they will see to it that every PNM Minister will pay for it.

MEANT BUSINESS

"So brothers and sisters, I don't mind. I'll tell you something, when

they knew that I meant business and if they took my life they would lose theirs at the same time, they stop threatening my life!

Charging that he was dealing with "gangsters," Mr. Humphrey argued that there was only one way to handle them.

"If a man is coming at you with a gun to kill you, you have to be sure you have to have a gun in front and as you see him you shoot him down first.

That's the only way to deal with them. I called on my leader to let me go for three month's military training. Who the hell took me seriously? Who took me seriously? I was deadly serious. I am still deadly serious.

"If they come back with the SLRs and sub-machine guns and start a campaign of breaking people's houses again, I am going to disappear for three months. I don't need to go. As long as the guns are put away and not used against the people there is no need for us to arm to deal with them.

"We will deal with them at elections and beat them at their own game. And that is what the accommodation is all about. The accommodation (between the ONR and the Alliance) has taken two years to achieve."

Further Humphrey Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] REP. JOHN HUMPHREY, (Opposition, St Augustine) said yesterday he has no intention of relaxing his efforts to remove the ruling People's National Movement from power.

He said his efforts have been legal and constitutional inside and outside of Parliament and he had never threatened violence to any of the PNM people.

Rep. Humphrey was commenting on his statements made at a meeting in Curepe in which he said that in the event of any attempts to assassinate him, he had made arrangements, and guns had been brought into the country and Government Ministers would be assassinated in retaliation.

Mr Humphrey, in a telephone conversation yesterday, said he had announced a year ago that he had taken "certain measures to protect myself and my family, because I was totally satisfied that the police could do nothing to protect me, and the harassment that we have been subjected to has continued and it was stepped up in the campaign for the Local Government elections."

He said "At my meeting in Curepe, I merely reminded the PNM of the arrangements I had made to protect myself and my family. If that is what the newspapers consider to be threat of violence and threat of our democracy, then they do not understand either violence or democracy."

He noted that a parliamentarian (not an Opposition member) said at a function he attended that there was a permanent solution for him (Humphrey). He felt that the member was intoxicated (and he made allowances for that). BUT he said, there were other things were were "deadly serious."

Mr Humphrey said that after threats were written on his walls against him and his wife, he met the Commissioner of Police and other senior officers and while regular patrols were promised he did not get any guarantees.

He charged that it was the PNM which had chosen violent action in breaking down squatters' houses and using arms. Somebody had to stand up, he said. "I chose the course of hammer and saw, Parliament, defiance and the media. What I have done is to protect my life," he said.

PNM Rally

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

Certain leaders of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) were prominent organisers and members of the People's National Movement (PNM), holding the highest positions in the party and in the Government.
Agriculture and Lands Production

Minister, Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed, Parliamentary representative for Barataria, said this to a large gathering when the People's National Movement launched its campaign for the El Socorro West electoral ward at Second Avenue, Barataria, on Saturday night.

He quoted extensively from newspaper reports where the Leader of the ONR described the parliamentary opposition as a disgrace to Trinidad and Tobago. He added, "I cannot see how what was a disgrace to Trinidad and Tobago yesterday has now become so good for the electorate."

Mr. Mohammed accused the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament of abdicating his responsibility to the people of Trinidad and Tobago — in that the United Labour Front (ULF) which holds ten seats in the House ought to have fielded the full slate of candidates for the local government elections.

The minister took the opportunity to deal in detail with the various criticisms being made against the PNM and the Government by various Opposition parties.

On the issue of corruption, Mr. Mohammed stated that there was not a single case where this subject had been mentioned that the Government did not take action through the proper channels.

He explained that the Sam P. Wallace affair was nothing new as time and time again Government had explained that the Police were still working on the case.

He clarified a statement which he made at Princes Town that another newspaper attributed to him as mentioning that if the Opposition party were to get into power no funds would be voted to that council by the Central Government.

He said he had been in politics for too long to make such a statement.

"What I told the people at Princes Town was that over eight and a half years he was Minister of Local Government the question of allocation of funds for local government bodies always posed a big problem, and that common sense would dictate to the electorate that there would be always a better harmonious relationship with special reference to negotiations for funds where there was no conflict between the Central Government and Local Government bodies," Mr. Mohammed explained.

In fact, he said they had just concluded discussions with the Tobago House of Assembly as an indication of the kind of collaboration which good statesmanship could produce.

Mr. Mohammed dealt with other criticisms relating to housing, agriculture, roads, drains, flooding,

education and the school feeding programme.

He told the audience that Clive Pantin had been speaking on platforms as though he was completely divorced from the education system in Trinidad and Tobago, although he and other leaders of the ONR have been part and parcel of the system which was a very good effort by the Government to grapple with a problem which was not an easy one.

Mr. Mohammed mentioned that the shift system was introduced in order to accommodate more children than normally would be possible, and that Government was working towards elimination of the shift system.

He took the opportunity to clarify the question of the Justice Deyalsingh affair where he made it clear that during its 27 years in power the Government had never interfered with the Judiciary, and had no intention of doing so now.

He explained that it was Mr. Justice Deyalsingh who referred the judgment of the Pasa case to the Attorney-General with a covering note that he was sending it to him in his political capacity.

Mr. Mohammed told the gathering that the Attorney-General in turn referred it to the Prime Minister who laid it in Parliament for the information of members.

He said that all the noise that was being made concerning this affair was motivated and generated by political considerations.

The minister told the gathering that the fact that the ULF had allowed the ONR to field more candidates than they did showed that the ULF and Alliance suffered from a serious inferiority complex, and did not justify any confidence from the electorate.

He reminded the audience that for the past 27 years the PNM had the opportunity on more than one occasion to pass legislation of any sort it wished, but never did so, "because of our respect for the provision of the Constitution guaranteeing freedom of worship, freedom of religion and freedom of the Press, and giving all political parties a free opportunity to campaign as they wish."

On the basis of the record of the PNM there was no comparison to be made with any other political party or parties either individually or collectively with the stability and class of the PNM.

VIABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES QUESTIONED

Background, Future Roles

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 83 p 7

[Article by Dennis Mahabir]

[Text]

THE 1983 elections to local government bodies are being held on August 8. Up to 1961 we were accustomed to November elections — dates fixed by law governing the Port-of-Spain municipality, the boroughs and the county councils.

When these elections were frozen and change and decay set in, later elections were held at different dates in the year. By that time (1968) people had forgotten of the existence of these bodies except for the in-fighting which took place at these one-party organisations. There were charges of slander. "You don't deserve to sit in that chair," said an alderman to the mayor in 1967. "PNM scraped the bottom of the barrel", was the reply.

Government's plan had succeeded. With no opposition party, no annual elections, "the City Council is merely an administrative committee of the ruling party, growing more divorced from the mass of people as the memory of elections fades away from their consciousness." (Guardian editorial, January 30, 1965). Lack of an opposition created an opposition within the PNM.

What made matters worse was the taking over of the city corporation's properties without payment. Lock-joint dug up the city's streets in 1962 without permission or compensation. Government ignored the city's building authority and regulations. Everybody followed. Electricity went, water distribution went, and the age-old conflict between Government and the City Council started all over again. Open spaces were taken over by Government to build schools. Offices were set up in exclusive residential areas.

All that the bourgeois had for them to remember were the hectic and enthusiastic campaigns and elections of yesteryear, the stalwarts like Cip-

rani, Quintin O'Connor, Bertie Gomes, Gaston Johnson, George Cabral, C.B. Mathura, Tito Achong. Even though pre-1956 days witnessed the annual pantomime of electing a mayor, few will forget how it took three days to elect one. The spectacle drew more crowds than a crusade or a circus.

PNM put a stop to this public freeness. It was transferred to behind closed doors in Balisier House.

Today nobody remembers the rosettes on election day. Some would vaguely recall that with the close co-operation between Government and municipality in 1957 — 1960, Port-of-Spain got first-class lighting, pavements, a new Town Hall, the Cipriani Memorial (rescued from a storeroom in the Princes Building), public tennis courts. There was a strong intelligent opposition in the City Council — Louis Rostant, James Kelly, Mrs. Sylvia Hunt, Quintin O'Connor, Joe Castillo, Pat Mathura.

Then in the late sixties, a Government appointed committee reported. Nothing was done about it for years. This committee endorsed the sentiments of the South Chamber of Commerce, namely:

"Trinidad and Tobago should not stifle or suppress the democratic institutions which still exist or strip them of the little power left them. In a state which is democratic and which possessed a system of local government ... the right of the Government to control through their elected local authorities those aspects of administration which most closely touch their daily lives, should not be denied them."

Catching stray dogs and scavenging must not be the only functions of the councils. Furthermore, a mayor must become, to an appreciable degree, "above his party" and consider the

common interest of the city or the town as a whole.

There must be some philosophy about what the city or town is all about, knowledge of what has gone before, who have served. And of course perspectives for the future. If the Government wants to make a car park of the Savannah, get up and say NO. Councilors said NO to the taking over of George V Park, but Government ignored the motion.

It is not too late for Government to repay the city for what was taken away without one cent compensation. That money can help to rebuild or give a face-lift.

Above all, the city, the towns, need to be run from their own headquarters, and not from Maraval Road or Tranquillity Street.

Unfortunately for the PNM, August 8 will find it with a list of candidates

for which the political leader has expressed his lack of total enthusiasm. Added to this, the opposition has united for these elections.

That lack of enthusiasm by the leader cannot make a purse out of a sow's ear. True enough, some members of Parliament are better suited to be county councillors in County St. David or Nariva than in the Red House.

But we do not want a further influx of charlatans or plain quacks, particularly at local government level which cries aloud for help. The days of the standpipe politician are over, and it is time to go back to the responsible stage.

Yet the feeling of the PNM political leader remains with us. And if the aspirants reflect this feeling, all that remains for us to do is to pray for the response of the soul of local government. In Latin, Urdu or Hindi.

Review of Drawbacks

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 83 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

THERE are times when it seems reasonable to ask why we hold local government elections. Is it because we are fond of "gallerying" and "ole talk" and value form more than substance, make-believe more than truth?

We ask these questions not because we do not believe in elections.

Our stand on the sacredness of elections is well-known. Time after time, for example we have called upon Mr. Bishop in Grenada, to hold elections so that democracy can flower. We believe implicitly and irrevocably in the electoral process, affording "fair and free and free-from-fear" elections leading to the election of persons ready, willing, able, and honest in their endeavour to serve the people.

But it seems to us that the elected local government officials make no difference at all to the quality of life either in Port of Spain, the boroughs of San Fernando and Arima or the county council districts spread across Trinidad. Tobago is another matter altogether.

When one surveys the councils and their works, the conclusion drawn is that local elections are a waste of time and taxpayers' money, considering the sorry state of local government in which we now are mired.

In time past this was impossible,

True, there was much less money about but there were men and women of sterling worth available for the honour of managing local affairs. Mostly of independent means and most certainly unanimously of independent views and will, they added in Port of Spain, for instance, considerable

contribution to the struggle for self-government and political independence. Among them the name of Capt. A.A. Cipriani stands supreme.

CITY MASQUERADE

Their efforts were persuasive, earning for the country consistent constitutional advance with the years.

Today the local government bodies are mere shells within which puppets inertly await their master's bidding, unable to control even their staff. Nobody in the country can give you the names of the councillors of a single municipality at any time without pausing to look them up in some official list.

The Mayor of Port of Spain is constantly incognito so devoid of authority and influence is he.

Indeed, one former holder of the office has been known to describe the limits of the powers of the City Council as those connected with the cleaning of the city market and catching stray dogs.

To this pitch has descended the Port of Spain City Council.

The cause of that descent is well-known.

The deliberate exercise of concentrating both national and local government responsibilities in the Central Government has confiscated whatever residual powers the City Council possessed before 1956 and the result is now an eyesore that masquerades under the name of the capital City of Port of Spain.

The councillors cannot clear the streets of the city of illegal pavement venders. They cannot get their workers to clean the city properly. They cannot provide better streets. They cannot undertake proper enforcement of the laws protecting public health. They can do absolutely nothing of any value without prior reference to the Central Government for approval and funds.

Why have councils at all, if they must exist in such ridiculous circumstances?

It is not even good economics, since the little they can possibly do cannot justify the vast staff they officially must employ?

THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Is it that these councils obey some tropical Parkinson's Law of their own?

The question is starkly relevant for we have all now heard straight from the horse's mouth, as it were, that there is no hope of any improvement in efficiency, scope or influence of councils.

If the People's National Movement continues its control, there is nothing to indicate things will improve; if the Opposition gets in there will be "trouble."

On the authority of the spoken word of no less a person than a former Minister of Local Government, Mr Kamaluddin Mohammed, we now have it that unless the voters return the PNM the councils will find it difficult to get the funds required to do their work.

No doubt this is just what has been happening to the Tobago House of Assembly.

This must be unconstitutional in spirit, if not in law, and it is the worst-off citizens who must continue to pay for the very

scabrous public amenities which have been the subject of such widespread calypso notice, of innumerable letters to newspapers, of tedious comment on radio and elsewhere, of long lists of editorials, of long hours of patient personal application by citizens to the county halls and town halls of this country for more than a generation now.

Nothing has been able to spur the local government bodies to effective action. Nothing will. Indeed nothing can, if we accept the reasoning of Mr. Mohammed.

Mr. Mohammed has announced in advance that the Government intends to starve the councils of funds, especially those, which may fall under Opposition control as a result of the elections. So what are we having the elections for? That more councils can share the grim fate of the Tobago House of Assembly and stand idly by as we deteriorate?

ANOTHER AGE

In another age it just would not have been possible for the Ministry of Public Utilities or anyone else to walk into Arima and grab part of the people's playground to use as a 'bus terminus.

In another age the "Drag Brothers" in Port of Spain would have been relocated long ago.

In another age, the City Council would have fought the battle against erosion of their powers up and down the nation and its voice would have been the authentic voice of the people against which the colonial authorities would not have prevailed.

The time has surely come when we must make a stand and show the wrongly-advised people like Mr. Mohammed that no one, PNM, ULF, Alliance, ONR ought to feel that he has been divinely appointed to govern this country, that surely it is the people who call the tune.

Unless we are prepared to do this, regardless of which party individually, (as is our right), we support, we shall show ourselves deserving of a fate even worse than that which the Minister gives notice of.

TOBAGO GOVERNMENT ISSUES UNDER FEDERAL CONSIDERATION

Talk With Chambers

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Compton Delph]

[Text]

THE Tobago House of Assembly, at its meeting with Prime Minister George Chambers on Tuesday, will raise the controversial issue of the Government's failure to establish the Tobago House of Assembly Fund as demanded by law.

The meeting takes place at the Crown Reef Hotel in Tobago, and Assembly Chairman, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, will lead a six-man team which includes Mr. Stanford Callender, leader of the PNM Opposition in the Assembly.

Under the Tobago House of Assembly Act, provision is made for the establishment of a fund into which are to be placed all monies appropriated by Parliament for the use of the Assembly.

But the fund, after almost three years of existence of the Assembly, has not been established, and the Assembly has to keep applying to the Ministry of Finance for the re-

lease of funds to carry out its work.

The Assembly has charged publicly, on many occasions, that the Government refuses to establish the fund so that it can maintain control and influence over the Assembly.

During the debate on the 1984 expenditure budget last month, Assemblyman George Archer disclosed that the Ministry of Finance had not released "one penny" of a \$1.2 million 1983 allocation for the development of sport in Tobago.

The Assembly, whose delegation on Tuesday will also include Deputy Chairman, Dr. Jeff Davidson, and Mr. Hochoy Charles, leader of the Assembly business, is also expected to raise with the Prime Minister the question of control of its staff.

Solution to this problem, which also had existed from the inception of the Assembly, was frustrated when a motion to amend the Constitution to give the Public Service Commission jurisdiction over the Assembly staff was defeated in the

Senate on June 7.

The Assembly has been arguing that the amendment should be retroactive to the date of the creation of the Assembly, as was done when the daily-paid staff was placed under the jurisdiction of the Chief Personnel Officer.

But the Government refused to add the retroactive clause to the Bill and it was defeated in the Senate, after having been passed by the House of Representatives.

An Assembly source yesterday described Tuesday's meeting with Mr. Chambers as "very crucial to the state of affairs in Tobago."

Mr. Chambers, who last met with the Assembly on April 27, will be taking six Ministers with him to Tuesday's talks. Other members of the Tobago team will be the two DAC Members of Parliament for Tobago, Miss Pam Nicholson and Mr. James Ogiste, and Mr. Rudolph Murray, legal officer of the Assembly.

The meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Second Meeting

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH: MR. ANR ROBINSON, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, yesterday held a briefing session for members of the delegation to meet Prime Minister George Chambers today at the Crown Reef Hotel.

This will be the second meeting between the Prime Minister and

the Assembly the first was held in April at Riverside Plaza, Port of Spain.

The talks are aimed at improving relations between Government and the Assembly, which has charged that its efforts to run Tobago as envisaged under the Tobago House of Assembly Act were being frustrated by Government and its

agents.

Today's meeting is regarded as crucial according to an Assembly source.

Even though it was reported that at the earlier meeting with the Prime Minister a number of steps had been identified for immediate

action, it is known that the Assembly, controlled by Mr. Robinson's Democratic Action Congress (DAC) has been complaining that nothing has really changed.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied today by Mr. Kamaluddin Mohamed, Minister of Agriculture Lands and Food Production; Mr. Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives; Mr. John Donaldson, Minister of National Security; Senator Russell Martineau, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs and Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Planning responsible for Central Government administration in Tobago.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 10.00 a.m. Also expected to be included in Government team and Mr. Vishnu Dean Maraj, Comptroller of Accounts, Mr. Martin Gopaul, Director of the Organisation and Management Division and Mr. Horace Bailey, Permanent Secre-

tary for Central Government Administrative Services in Tobago.

The Assembly team, it is understood, will press for public disclosure of matters discussed with the Government team. Public scrutiny through information, it was stated, would influence the Government to take positive steps to implement fully the provisions of the Act which created the Assembly.

The Act provides for creation of the Tobago House of Assembly Fund for money appropriated by Parliament to be placed for the use of the Assembly.

The Government has not established the fund. The Assembly has to approach the Ministry of Finance "cap in hand" for money to carry out work in Tobago, it was stated.

The Assembly has charged that by controlling its financing through the Ministry of Finance, the Government was maintaining illegal control over its affairs.

Return of House Bill

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Jul 83 pp 1, 17

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:
THE GOVERNMENT will bring back to Parliament the defeated constitutional motion to give the Public Service Commission (PSC) jurisdiction over the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) staff and this time legislation will be made retroactive to the date of the creation of the Assembly.

This is one of the decisions taken yesterday at the Crown Reef Hotel between Prime Minister George Chambers and a Cabinet team and Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the THA and an Assembly delegation.

The meeting also decided to put into operation the THA fund as required by law and agreed in principle to a joint consultative committee.

These were two major areas of agreement between the Government and the Assembly since the Assembly came into existence in September 1980.

It was also agreed that Prime Minister Chambers in consultation with Cabinet, will draw up a programme of positive action in implementing decisions taken yesterday.

"We welcome this", said Mr. Robinson, at the end of the meeting. "We have been having a lot of assurances in the past".

A joint communique yesterday evening stated: "The purpose of the meeting which lasted from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. was to continue discussion relating to the smooth operation of the THA under provisions of Act 37 of 1980.

Subjects covered in the discussions were:

- Legislation to bring the staff of the Assembly under the jurisdiction of the PSC as from the date of the coming into being of the THA in 1980. Proposals for the operation of the THA fund as required by the Act; the scope of the functions of the Assembly as set out Section 21 in the Act.

CONSULTATIONS

- Proposals for joint consultations between the Central Government and the THA.
- Proposals for the Assembly to take over the functions of the Central Marketing Agency, Tobago.
- State of the Crown Point airport project with respect to resurfacing, paving and lighting of the runway.
- Releases by the Ministry of Finance of money for — development projects in Tobago.
- Establishment of procedures to enable the Assembly to control and manage its finances.
- Expedition action on the acquisition of sites for development projects in Tobago, including the site earmarked for regional recreation grounds at Lowlands.

It was agreed that the functions set out in Section 21 of the Act

relating to the implementation of Government policy were the statutory function of the Assembly and did not require any further instrument for them to be exercised by the Assembly under the law.

The Prime Minister undertook to approach Cabinet accordingly.

It was agreed that the Assembly will be supplied copies of a paper prepared by the Controller of Accounts dated July 16, 1983 containing proposals for strengthening the financial administration of the Assembly and bringing it in line with provisions of the Act, and a paper prepared by the Director, Organisation and Management division of the Ministry of Finance, on the starting of the Assembly.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance undertook to look into

the question of release of money for Assembly projects with a view to expediting action.

In this regard matters raised included protection of Buccoo Reef, quarrying operations at Studley Park and additional office accommodation for the Assembly in the building formally used as a community centre at Bacolet Street, Scarborough.

A joint consultative committee was agreed to in principle. The functions of the committee will be to consider all matters that may affect smooth relations between the Assembly and the Government and in particular to review operations of the Act and any matter that may affect the efficient discharge of the responsibilities of the Assembly under the Act.

Praise for Mutual Goodwill

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Jul 83 p 8

[Text] We are pleased to see good sense prevailing between Prime Minister George Chambers and Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly A. N. R. Robinson in efforts to smoothen out the prickly relationship that has arisen from the act setting up the Assembly in the sister isle. Laws, after all, are made by men and whatever their imperfections, we believe they can never be so complex or formidable as to defeat efforts based on goodwill and good faith to correct them.

The Tobago House of Assembly Act, we must admit, is a most unsatisfactory piece of legislation, hazily conceived in a political context marked by uncertainty, vacillation, and a certain degree of peevishness. The discrepancies in the Act, in fact, have only served to aggravate the frustrations and disenchantment of Tobago folk who are alienated by a period of neglect and indifference following the ruling party's loss of its seats in the island in the elections of 1976.

So the effort to provide Tobagonians with greater control over their own affairs through a more elevated form of local government has had its problems from the beginning.

Face-To-Face

Thanks to Prime Minister Chambers and THA Chairman Robinson, the wounds are being healed. Their face-to-face discussions, arranged by the Prime Minister, are proving to be most helpful in getting matters straightened out.

Tuesday's meeting between the two leaders and their teams of advisors, for example, was able to settle the problem of the status of public servants attached to the Tobago House of Assembly. Anxiety among THA staff about losing

their service benefits should be allayed with the decision by Government to return to Parliament with the defeated motion giving the Public Service Commission jurisdiction over them, but this time making the legislation retro-active to the date of the creation of the Assembly.

The seven-hour meeting covered a wide-range of issues and it was also decided to put into operation the House of Assembly Fund as required by the law. It is understood that all funds appropriated by Parliament for use of the Assembly are to be credited to the Fund from which the Assembly is expected to meet its expenditures.

Another important decision that should make for the best future relations between the Central Government and the THA is the agreement in principle to establishment of a joint consultative committee which should serve as a machinery for settling disputes that may still arise as the provisions of the Act are brought into effect.

Crucial

However, there is still the difficult matter of the THA Budget to be decided and, since we all know that money has once again become a most serious problem for the Government, we hope that the amiable spirit which has developed would also prevail in negotiations over this crucial aspect of the THA operations.

We expect also that the success of these discussions between Mr. Chambers and Mr. Robinson will bring to an end the threatening ultimatums that have been coming from sections of the Assembly and the rumblings about recession unless a more equitable relationship is established.

We firmly believe in the unitary state of our country and we do not believe that any disruption of this unity would be calculated to serve the best interest of either island partner.

CSO: 3298/855

MINISTER MAHABIR ASSESSES ECONOMY, SPARKS REJOINDER

Sources of Problems

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 83 p 9

[Address by Mr. Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives, to the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce on Wednesday July 20]

[Text]

IT IS always a pleasure for me to meet any sector of the southern business community and discuss with them issues which impact on the welfare of our nation. I have always found these discussions both productive and stimulating.

Our twin Chambers have over the years demonstrated two essential qualities — a commitment to national development and a demonstrated capacity to seek structural and long term rather than short term solutions to the problems which the nation faces.

These qualities are evident in the decision which the Southern Chamber has taken in respect of agricultural marketing which we all hope will bear fruit; but of course their most obtrusive manifestation lies in the Pt. Lisas Industrial Estate whose genesis rests firmly in the deliberations and action which your division, then having a more independent identity, took twenty years ago.

These qualities — national commitment and the ability to take a long view — are those which are most needed in the current period of transition which the country has now entered; for as we cope with the short term problems, we have to be conscious of the fact that the only durable solutions will be those which deal firmly and directly with the structure of the production system — the source of our jobs and incomes.

I would like to spend a few minutes talking about certain

aspects of the present situation and of the responsibilities which all of us, particularly we in the South, must bear in coping with the transition.

In my address to the 8th Biennial Conference of the Labour Congress last year, I cited several international reports and surveys depicting a gloomy forecast of world economic prospects of very frightening dimensions.

I do not propose to repeat the details of the picture which I presented then. It should suffice merely to point out that up to then the full throes and the adversities of the economic decline which were being experienced in the industrialised market economies had not yet transcended upon Trinidad and Tobago to the extent they have at present.

That the full impact would eventually be felt in these parts of the world, however, was not unexpected. Declining economic growth rate, reduced oil prices with pervasive multiplier effects, more stringent protectionist trade policies and a rising incidence of unemployment with its attendant social and economic dislocations were some of the natural consequences which were expected in our own country in due course.

As I said then, there was no indication at that point in time of a likely reversal in the declining economic trend being experienced in the industrialised market economies; to the contrary the indications were that the global recession could deepen.

And so it did. It was therefore

only a matter of time before the full impact would reach developing countries such as ours.

Over the past several months many workers have been laid off; some have been put on early retirement, and there are signs that, at least for a time, the number of workers without jobs will grow.

There may be some truth in the statement often made that many workers have been 'moonlighting'. Those who were 'moonlighting' and have lost one job will be affected less than those who were not.

But the growing list of unemployed able-bodied men and women creates a serious social situation. It is affecting human lives and is a source of concern to all of us.

The root of the problem of growing joblessness in this economy lies mainly in the difficulty which the petroleum industry is facing; the reduced levels of income and activity in the industry are affecting those who work in the industry as well as the large number of service workers who support, and benefit from the industry through providing ancillary services to it.

PENETRATION

And we may yet experience the backwash of the reduced level on public investment which appears to be likely from falling revenues which the Government derives from petroleum.

The economic difficulties created by developments in petroleum have been aggravated by the lack of competitiveness and the sharply falling level of output and productivity in the sugar industry.

The secondary manufacturing sector is also in travail as a result of escalating costs and import penetration. And the prospects for a partial alleviation of the difficulties have been frustrated by the increasing protectionist trends in the United States and elsewhere which for example have made market access difficult for the limited amount of steel which Trinidad and Tobago can produce.

The immediate task before us is to manage this transition period with sensitivity and a sense of fair play distributing the costs of adjustment equitably among all sectors of the community, while, at the same time, keeping firmly in view the requirements for long term stability and growth.

If we are to do this effectively, we need to take fully into account the principal elements which contribute to the present situation and also the requirements for the long term. Permit me to give a few thoughts on the Source of our present problems and certain essential elements required to cope with

them.

Let us take, firstly, the petroleum sector of the economy which is closest to us in the South in so many ways — physically, economically and emotionally — and which predominantly constitutes the mainstay of our economy. It is this sector, as is well known, which has been most severely jolted by the economic crisis.

It is important that we understand fully that the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery was a significant part of the Trinidad production system; but its principal role, in the eyes of its owners, was a mechanism by which Texaco supplied the US market with fuel oil using Middle East crude to which it had access.

The local refinery has therefore had to absorb the full shock of the energy conservation measures which the industrialised countries adopted since 1973; measures which have brought about an absolute reduction of 7% in the demand for fuel oil in the United States over the decade; and this factor, along with the increasing cost of Middle East crude, has made off-shore fuel oil oriented refineries catering for the eastern sea board of the United States as redundant as the fifth wheel.

At present our two refineries are operating at less than 30 per cent capacity and are undergoing substantial losses.

Regionally they face the greatest competition from the larger refineries located in Venezuela, Netherland Antilles, Bahamas and the Virgin Islands which together have eight times the capacity of our combined refineries.

The local market for these refineries like those in Trinidad and Tobago represents only a minor percentage of refinery output.

If they are to operate at acceptable efficiency levels they must find export markets for the bulk of their refined products.

It is in this setting that the recent decision of the Caricom Heads of Government in accepting the marketing aspect of the regional energy plan represents an important step forward.

On the production side, natural decline in existing fields set in 1978, crude oil production (83.8 mbbbls) peaked in that year.

ACTIVITY

The country has not had a significant new oil find since 1972. Production fell to 64.6 mbbbls in 1982 and is estimated to be 58 m. in 1983.

The effect on the national economy of the falling output of crude oil was masked by the sharp increases in prices which took place in 1979.

But with oil prices, in real terms, rolled back by 22% earlier this year,

the total impact on the industry has been very severe indeed. It has forced companies to reappraise both the present and the future levels of activity.

Secondary manufacturing has also been affected by the explosion in costs and prices. In many cases, local industry has lost its competitiveness; and where it has not, it has run up against protectionism, and the balance of payments problems of the CARICOM countries.

The result is that the market is

rapidly contracting and, with it, the number of jobs it offers.

The Government anticipated some of the adverse economic developments and took certain steps to counteract them.

For example, in manufacturing, a new system of export incentives for the non-oil sector has been put in place, while food production has received support from a wide range of subsidies and fiscal incentives to boost production.

[Editor's Note: The 23 July issue of the TRINIDAD GUARDIAN is unavailable.]

Critique of Mahabir's Views

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 83 p 19

[Text]

THE honourable Minister of Labour, Mr. Errol Mahabir, in another scholarly display of his command of this country's affairs, recently provided his audience at the Southern Division of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce with yet another diagnosis of the ailments which beset our economy.

The Minister spoke with candid disclosure and forthrightness and without the mystery which surrounds the jargon of the bureaucratic economic planners now in vogue with our adolescent politicians. There was no micro this or macro that. Experience, realism, objectivity and simplicity prevailed. His message was understood.

The Minister's audience had no difficulty in appreciating the now familiar facts of life, for theirs has been the burden of retrenchment, falling sales, curtailed services and negative cash flows for the past year. His prescription for prevention and cure must have touched their hearts for it had been their lot to have expanded the petroleum sector, to have anticipated the virtue of a diversified economic base and an export thrust and, thus, to have conceived and promoted Point Lisas.

There could hardly have been anything between the Minister and his listeners but a consensus underlined by the need for swift execution of his remedial measures. What a pity that the cultivated politics of this country does not permit of more active and visible co-operation between Government and business — Japanese style. In preaching to the converted, therefore, the Minister must have unwittingly provoked several questions:

If Government wishes to see the lid put on the profits of the business sector which provides few votes, is it also willing to put constraints on the profit margins i.e. salary and wage increases, of unproductive labour who provide many votes? If so, is Government prepared to promptly revise the criteria set forth in the Industrial Relations Act which guides the Ministry of Labour and the Industrial Court? Why did it not set an example in the recent salaries agreement with the divisional heads of port operations etc. where they granted 45 per cent increases over three years?

CIVIL ATTITUDE

Since the export thrust as proposed by the honourable Minister suggests that the United States is one of our target markets, particularly for our steel, fertilisers, airline, tourism and those industries expected to be stimulated by the Caribbean Basin Initiative, is Government prepared to abandon its cynicism and xenophobia, use its diplomats properly and adopt a more civil attitude towards the United States so as to cultivate goodwill as any dynamic salesman would do with his potential customer?

If there is to be an agricultural rearmament, is the Government prepared to conscript its many voters away from DEWD programmes back into the agricultural sector and to forget that sugar workers usually vote the other way and so channel their agricultural expertise into a food production system

which would provide them with a more decent standard of living?

If foreign partners are to be encouraged away from licensing arrangements in favour of equity in local industry so as to have some guarantee of expertise and export markets, is Government prepared to review the Aliens (Landholding) Ordinance which has undermined foreign investors' confidence since the Tesoro impasse?

If our citizens are to work as private diplomats alongside public and private bodies to dismantle the trade barriers erected against us by other countries, as some of them have been quietly and effectively doing, are the politicians prepared to take the bit in their teeth at the official level and settle swift arrangements instead of talking from conference to conference?

Yes, the Minister's enlightened knock is at an open door but he seems to have at least two problems to surmount: Can his Government manage its bureaucrats into appreciating that there is a crisis which requires swift abandonment of their counter-productive attitudes? And more importantly, can the Minister convince some of his colleagues to face up to the truth and understand that only enlightened, resourceful and innovative action will deliver us from economic damnation — especially as some of them still think that the public is assinine enough to believe that the decades of flooding in this country have been caused by houses recently built near water-courses.

TELCO IMPROVEMENTS ADVANCE, BUT NEW FUNDS ARE NEEDED

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] TRINIDAD and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco) yesterday announced significant improvements in its services.

But at the same time the chairman of the State-owned utility warned that without the required financial foundation there could be serious setbacks.

Representatives of the news media who were summoned to the Trinidad Hilton were told among other things:

--From midnight tonight, subscribers in the West and Belmont exchanges will receive international direct distance dialling facilities along with an enhance improvement in their local calls;

--Commissioning of a new tandem switch which will be the hub of Telco's network to offer better trunk facilities between Port of Spain and the rest of Trinidad and Tobago.

--Telco was installing new telephones at the rate of 1,000 week;

--Increased telex services for the the business sector.

Fielding questions from the Press personnel were senior officers of Telco, including its Chairman, Mr. Fenrick De Four; Dr. Neilson Mackay, Executive Director; Mr. Winston Millet, General Manager (Finance and Administration); Mr. Marvin Larsen, Adviser to the General Manager (Technical Operations) and Mr. Neil Giuseppe, Public Relations Officer.

Subscribers in the following areas are to benefit from tonight's switchover:

Morvant, Belmont, St. Ann's, Cascade, Newtown, Woodbrook, St. James, St. Clair, Boissiere, Maraval (North of the Golf Course Road) and Cocorite.

Also from August 20, subscribers in the 637...code will receive international direct distance dialling.

Dr. Mackay revealed financing for phase two of District One development project of Telco was raised through loans from the Export Development Corporation of Canada (\$226 million) and \$180 million from a consortium of local banks.

Reflecting Government's position of not financing Telco's expenditure for capital works, Dr. Mackay said Telco was hunting on the international finance market in efforts to get loans at competitive rates.

Negotiations are still underway for more money in this regard.

Chairman De Four, in underlining the need for Telco be put on a viable footing, said the deliberations of the Public Utilities Commission on Telco's application to increase its rates and charges were crucial to the company.

Moaning that the matter should have already been completed, Mr. De Four hoped that the tribunal would be able to give its judgment by the end of 1983.

In its search for funds on the international money market the Chairman said that Government would be needed to guarantee the loans--a normal requirement--and while Telco would join other State enterprises in the line for such guarantee he was optimistic that the Government would back Telco.

"The stop-go method of developing our telephone service in the past is not the best method. We are confident that we will be allowed to proceed with our ambitious development programme."

Telco was also looking at the sharing of the revenue derived from overseas calls placed in TEXTEL.

Dr. Mackay stressed that the Company's training programme was an integral part of its overall development programme and disclosed a rigorous programme took place--for all levels of personnel--at its training facility in Port of Spain.

This programme also saw employees being sent abroad to study various telephone advances.

CSO: 3298/858

GOVERNMENT UNVEILS \$3-MILLION PLAN TO ASSIST FISHERMEN

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

CABINET has voted \$3 million for providing facilities for fishermen.

This was revealed by the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Mr Kamahuddin Mohammed, as he addressed the opening of the central wholesale fish market at Sea Lots, Port of Spain, on Thursday.

The money is to be allocated in the following manner, said Mr. Mohammed:

- One million dollars for providing facilities for fishermen at Orange Valley in County Caroni;

- One million dollars for providing facilities requested by fishermen at Icacos;

- Four hundred thousand dollars for upgrading facilities at Carenage.

According to Mr. Mohammed, the first two projects will be undertaken by the National Fisheries Company Limited and the third by the Ministry of Works, Maintenance and Drainage.

The rest of the money will be spent on improving facilities at other beaches in the country, the Agriculture Minister told the gathering.

Mr Mohammed said that in all the projects the fishermen have had a major input into what facilities are provided.

According to Mr. Mohammed, the physical works of the new fish market was executed at an estimated cost of \$3,621,222 with the funds being provided by the National Fisheries Company in the latter part of last year.

REASONABLE PRICE

The physical works were com-

pleted and the market began operation on June 21 with 435,775 pounds of fish passing through the new facilities between that date and July 26, said Mr. Mohammed.

The Agriculture Minister listed the objectives of the new wholesaling marketing system as:

- to guarantee a reasonable price to the fishermen for their catches at all time;

- to guarantee a reasonable price to the consumer by reducing the level of the present high mark-up;

- to improve the quality of fish marketed;

- to provide a more even supply of fish throughout the year by the establishment of cold storage facilities;

- to eliminate the sharp fluctuations in prices that occur at times due either to shortages or surpluses;

- to promote the wider utilisation of all species of fish.

Total estimated cost is \$5 million, said the minister.

Mr. Mohammed added that activities at the Caribbean Fisheries, Training and Development Institute will be recommenced with a restructured institute as approved by Cabinet to train local fishermen and young people with a view to giving them ideas of modern technology in the development of fishing.

ONR-ALLIANCE ACCOMMODATION PRAISED, CRITICIZED

Panday Remarks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Jul 83 pp 1, 15

[Text]

THE electoral accommodation worked out between the Alliance and the ONR for the August 8 local government elections was described last night by Leader of the Opposition, Mr Basdeo Panday, as the most historic political act since the introduction of adult franchise.

In the main address at last night's National Alliance convention at the Kienzi Complex in Couva, Mr. Panday said that many people fail to realise that the ruling PNM is supported only by a minority of the electorate, and because of three-cornered fights in various districts, have been winning seats on a minority of votes since 1956.

"We have agreed with the ONR," he said, "that we shall not field candidates in the seats they are contesting and they have reciprocated by not fielding candidates in the seats we are contesting."

The object of the strategy, he said, was that by avoiding three cornered fights in the various electoral districts, "we shall prevent the PNM from winning the seats on a minority vote as they have been doing since 1956."

Mr. Panday said that over the years the PNM had been able to get the support of only about 30 per cent of the total electorate.

"It means," he continued, "that the people in opposition are in the majority. But we have failed to win because a large percentage of that 70 per cent majority do not vote and of those who do, their votes have been split between several opposition parties."

He said the accommodation between the Alliance and the ONR would put a stop to that.

Mr. Panday told his audience, however, that it was in the interest of the PNM to see a divided Opposition and a three-cornered fight in the districts.

"I want to warn you," he added, "that having failed to put the opposition parties against each other, they will try other means of ensuring a three-cornered fight. I understand that they are trying

to persuade certain persons to contest the elections as independents."

Mr. Panday said that certain would-be candidates who had been screened by one or other of the opposition parties and who had been later asked to stand down to facilitate the accommodation between the Alliance and ONR, were now being asked to contest the elections as independents and ensure a division of opposition votes.

"I recognise the right of every qualified elector to offer himself for election," Mr. Panday said. "I merely implore such persons not to allow themselves to be used."

Mr. Panday said that having failed to destroy the Alliance/ONR accommodation by charges of racism, the PNM were now referring to it as a marriage of convenience.

"I say, assuming that it is, have you ever heard of a marriage of inconvenience?" he asked.

Mr. Panday said that what the PNM was really afraid of was the fact that it was now very inconvenient for them to divide and rule.

"We in the Alliance," he said, "have consistently maintained that, having regard to the nature of our plural society, there can be no national progress without national unity. There can be no nation without a national will; no national will without national consensus; and no national consensus without national unity."

Mr. Panday said that the accommodation must be seen as an attempt to forge new political institutions to promote but one dimension of national unity.

"Those who condemn us for struggling for national unity, let them know that history will absolve us."

He said that when Prime Minister George Chambers took over as head of Government on the death of the last Prime Minister, people were

prepared to give him a chance to provide the amenities for which they had waited so long under PNM rule.

He said that since then people have sat back and waited and waited, and it was now clear that since Chambers could not rule he might as well resign.

"Today we approach the local government elections in what must be the nearest thing to national opposition unity that has ever been achieved in the entire political history of this country. For the first time since its birth in 1956, the PNM will be facing the opposition in a two-cornered fight in every single constituency throughout the land."

Never before in the political history has this country seen an opposition so united, so competent, so committed, so courageous, both inside and outside of Parliament, he said.

Illegal-Guns Charge by Padmore

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

A GOVERNMENT MINISTER has described the election accommodation between the Opposition National Alliance and the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) as a merger forged with illegal guns and ammunition, designed to deprive the population of its enjoyment and democratic traditions.

Mr. Overand Padmore, Minister of Education, drew this assessment to a crowd attending a public meeting staged by the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) in connection with the August 8 Local Government elections.

Minister Padmore gave his St James audience on Friday night a comprehensive review of the Land Tenants Act, during which he accused certain landlords of adopting "terror tactics" against tenants, because of the Government's legislation.

He made a strong accusation while referring to statements made by Alliance parliamentarian, John Humphrey, at a political meeting in Curepe, last Tuesday.

Mr. Padmore quoted the "Trinidad Guardian" story on last Friday, in which Mr. Humphrey said guns and ammunition were brought into the country to assassinate all Government Ministers, in the event he (Mr. Humphrey) was killed.

He told the crowd. "It is a merger, an accommodation forged with guns and ammunition brought illegally into the country to disturb the quiet enjoyment of our democratic rights and traditions."

"An attempt to substitute the bullet for the ballot, and attempt to substitute the peaceful political

processes as we know it, an attempt to say that having brought security of tenure to the tenants of St. James and to the tenants of Trinidad and Tobago, they are not prepared to have you enjoy that quiet security of tenure which a PNM Government has made possible."

SERIOUS THREATS

Mr. Padmore spoke at the meeting held to support the PNM candidates for St. James East (Zainool Ali) and St. James West (Stevenson Sarjeant).

He asked if the executives of the National Alliance and the Organisation for National Reconstruction were not supporting Mr. Humphrey's serious threats, why did they not publicly repudiate his remarks at the Curepe meeting.

"As the old people say, show me your company, and I will tell you who you are."

On the security of land tenure, Mr. Padmore stressed that Government could not stand idly by and see tenants being "terrorised" by certain landlords, hence the decision to amend the legislation.

On the recent debate in the Senate, Mr. Padmore (without calling

names but obviously referring to Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, Political Leader of the ONR), said the Opposition brought in a "standby senator" supposedly possessing expertise in the field to speak on the issue.

"Anybody who felt — I am talking about a parliamentarian — that the Bill did not represent the interest of the people would have been in Parliament to vote against it at the critical moment.

"It would, perhaps, shock you to know that when the critical moment came to vote on that Bill, the voting which will determine whether it was defeated. Not a single Opposition parliamentarian — merger parliamentarian or non-merger parliamentarian — ULF Alliance, whatever, you chose to call it, not one of them was in the Senate to cast his vote for or against."

He added that the main reason for putting the "standby senator" in the Senate was to look for the interest of tenants. "But when that critical moment came — vote for or against — he was not there."

Minister Padmore also referred to the PNM's manifesto and stressed that the PNM government would continue to seek the interest of the population of Trinidad and Tobago.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN BLACK BY \$336 MILLION IN APRIL

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Jul 83 p 4

[Text]

DURING April this year, Trinidad and Tobago imported goods valued at \$788 million while exports were worth \$452 million. This meant that the country therefore recorded an adverse balance of visible trade in the sum of \$336 million, according to the latest bulletin released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

The bulletin said that these figures compared with corresponding figures for last year when an adverse balance of trade was recorded of \$82 million from imports of \$587 million and exports worth \$505 million.

The bulletin also stated that during the first four months of this year, imported goods were worth \$2,483 million while total exports amounted to \$1,916 million of which \$1,834 million

represented domestic exports.

An adverse balance of visible trade totaling \$567 million was recorded for the period under review.

This was also compared with corresponding months last year when total imports were \$2,690 million and total exports were \$2,395 million of which \$2,337 million were domestic exports.

According to the CSO bulletin, from January to April 1983, the petroleum sector accounted for 5.9 per cent of total imports and 83.7 per cent of total exports.

Excluding petroleum, imports amounted to \$2,335 million and exports to \$313 million said the bulletin.

CSO: 3298/857

STEEL COMPANY LAGS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS

Minor Role of Industry

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 83 p 4

[Text]

THE IRON and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) is yet to make its mark as a serious foreign exchange earner.

Commenting on the company, Dr. Robert Hosein, president of the Trinidad and Tobago chapter of the Industrial Management Clubs of Canada (IMCC) and managing director of the Caribbean Management Consulting and Training Centre, said ISCOTT is unable at the moment to operate at its break-even point.

Since the government has gone on record to state that in the near future all State enterprises will have to become self-sufficient, ISCOTT cannot look to government in the near future to shore up its cash flow until it becomes viable.

Dr. Hosein was at the time speaking on the topic "Nation's Short Term Economic Salvation Dependent on Agriculture and Small Business", at the IMCC's dinner meeting held at the Soong's Great Wall restaurant in San Fernando yesterday.

According to Dr. Hosein, the rest of the industrial sector is basically a low technology manufacturing system with the majority of companies having run down equipment.

"Yet the international scenario prediction calls for high technology as a replacement for noisy

machines and grease-stained floors," said Dr. Hosein.

He added: "This metamorphosis is symbolic of the sweeping transformation that is creating a new economy as the quest for increased productivity, efficiency and profitability continues while traditional smoke stack industries are reeling from foreign competition surging high technology companies are leading the world in innovation."

According to Dr. Hosein, apart from the petroleum sector, industrials have traditionally played a minor role in this country as far as exports are

concerned.

"It is therefore, very unlikely that this sector with its present low technology coupled with equipment either obsolete or poorly maintained in the majority of situations can be expected to bale us out now from our present trade imbalance," said Dr. Hosein.

He told the audience that the sugar industry which was once the major earner of foreign exchange after petroleum is now using up valuable foreign exchange to bring in refined sugar into the country due to insufficiency of the industry in its present situation.

Marketing Success

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jul 83 p 6

[Text] THE TOTAL production of the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) has been fully committed up to the end of this year.

This statement has been made by the company's communication officer, Keith Subero, who claimed that ISCOTT's marketing department had been able to sell all its billets and wire rods currently being produced to both local and foreign buyers.

However, current markets although on the rise, are still not at those levels projected by the company, Mr. Subero said.

Recently, the company announced that it had landed two 10,000 tonne orders of wire rods and a further 20,000 tonne order of direct reduced iron (DRI)--all of which go to Europe.

These two latest orders of wire rods will be shipped starting this month, said the company's communication officer.

He said the 20,000 tonne order of DRI which was concluded after months of negotiations was expected to be the first of several sizeable orders from Europe.

These orders which are considered sizable in the steel industry follow a 10,000 tonne order of wire rod in March which was ISCOTT's largest single order since coming on stream.

The Iron and Steel Company is to ship a further 5,000 tonnes of wire rod in mid-January and has a commitment with that buyer for a further 30,000 tonnes to be shipped later this year and into next year, said Mr. Subero.

CSO: 3298/857

BANK OFFICIAL SAYS SAVINGS WILL HAVE TO FINANCE BUDGET

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Jul 83 p 21

[Text]

A senior commercial bank officer here has said that the Trinidad and Tobago Government will have to draw heavily on savings if it is to finance the provisions of the last two national budgets.

Corporate Manager of the Royal Bank, Leslie Scotland, called for massive investment by the non-oil sector and special measures not only to encourage this investment but also to see that it is properly channelled.

The current situation beginning with the 1982 budget and continuing with the 1983 budget indicates that the financing of the budget has led to a need to borrow both local and overseas and to draw heavily on past savings almost to the extent of depleting these savings in the current year, he said in a speech to the Port-of-Spain Rotary Club.

In these circumstances, it is clear that there is need for economic policy measures, painful they may be, to keep the country's finances from deteriorating further as well as a positive

policy towards releasing and harnessing new private sector investment.

He had earlier said that declining oil production, depressed world prices and unprofitable refinery operations had reduced the government's ability to continue its leading role in investment and job creation.

The bank official said, however, that with the balance of remedial policy measures and increased private sector investment, there was some hope that the country could preserve, if not maintain, its economic growth.

To obtain that increased productive private sector investment, however, Scotland said it was necessary to focus on four issues on which the private sector had been making representation over the past four years—tax structure, industrial relations issues, productivity and work ethic and government bureaucracy.

he observed that it had been argued that the tax structure did not allow adequate returned earnings

from reinvestment in plant and machinery.

On the other hand, government has moved towards accelerated depreciation allowances on same, and in the light of an eroded revenue base, may be understandably reluctant to reduce corporate taxes, Scotland said.

However, he added that there were other sources of financing—the institutional framework which already existed in the stock exchange, the development finance company and the industrial development corporation.

Scotland said the state must be prepared to give all the necessary support in terms of devolution of responsibility and accountability to the management where this does not now exist.

On the other hand, if the state sector is expected to give some form of tax relief, say on percentage profits before taxation, there must be some trade-offs which would result in increased employment and/or opportunities to earn foreign exchange, he said.

OPPOSITION LEADER SLAMS GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR KOREANS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

POLITICAL leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) Karl Hudson-Phillips has deplored the PNM government's "ridiculous action" in giving South Koreans over \$250 million to build 1,047 houses and leaving Trinidad-born builders empty — handed without even "piece of the action".

The ONR leader questioned the wisdom of the PNM government going to far away France and giving outsiders, carpenters, masons, engineers our millions to build the Mount Hope Medical Complex and ignoring our own people who can't find jobs.

Mr. Hudson-Phillips, heading the ONR's Local Elections machinery, condemned the PNM government for travelling to distant Germany and giving our millions to foreigners to build a methanol and urea plant while our own contractors are left languishing in the wings.

He construed the government's behaviour to mean two things:

- That black people can't build houses;
- Trinidad is going downhill — FAST.

"PNM tells you what to do after you get raped but PNM can't tell you what to do to avoid the rape," Mr Hudson-Phillips said on Wednesday night to a crowd of over 400 as the ONR bandwagon rolled on to the Piccadilly Greens, in the East Dry River area.

He argued that the problem was "Trinidad had no leadership," criticising the government for chopping Texaco's oil tax, while your own income tax high, high, high.

He warned his supporters 1983 was no time for ole talk, that high prices were dealing them heavy blows, gas price had gone up, bus fares had gone up, salt, edible oil, sugar price had jumped. "Only an ONR Government can cut the rot," he claimed.

He said they were paying through

their noses now but worse was still to come.

"Watch out for higher rents in the NHA houses, watch out for higher electricity rates," Mr Hudson-Phillips warned.

Pointing out "PNM's heartlessness", he said "Telco wants you to pay more for your 'phone. ONR objects, yet before the case even finish, the bold face villains increased your bill."

Mr Hudson-Phillips charged that after government wasted \$3 million on King George V Park on two contractors, "PNM now plans to turn the park into a cemetery."

ONR's trouble — shooter Mervyn Assam recalled "charity begins at home but this government has loaned our money to other West Indian governments to better themselves while we suffer."

He accused the government of wasting \$300 million to build a jail at Golden Grove, and called for an end to this regime's reign of economic and political terror.

Foundation member Ferdi Ferreira claimed agriculture had been neglected and this was why our food imports had skyrocketed to one billion dollars, and why some 70,000 workers had lost their jobs by retrenchment.

Fiery Una Charles, of the NLTRA from Chase Village, said she was tired holding up placards to show government the ill people were suffering. She belonged to the Baptist faith, she said, and wanted to know why government was denying Baptists their Public Holiday.

She warned women that if they could not mind their children, they should stop having babies.

Candidate Winston "Reds" Mulligan said people felt nothing good ever came out from "behind the bridge" but eminent Judge Clinton Bernard showed we too can produce great men, and top sportsmen too.

The area's candidate, social worker Elmond Haynes warned government "you cannot fool a fool because he doesn't know he is being fooled — so you end up feeling like a fool."

He wanted to know how the tallest building in the city, the Riverside Plaza nearby, could be finished in less than two years when the St Paul centre, only one storey high and started in 1977, was not yet finished.

CSO: 3298/857

BUSINESSMEN HIT DELAYS, IRREGULARITIES IN CUSTOMS WORK

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 31 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Excerpts] A NUMBER of businessmen are complaining about delays in getting goods cleared at the Port-of-Spain wharves and Piarco International Airport.

They claim that Customs officers are costing the consumer millions of dollars because of unnecessary queries over import documents. The delays caused by the officers result in heavy rents paid for storage of the goods at the points of entry and importers have no choice but to pass the increased expenses along to the buying public.

One businessman, who wishes to remain anonymous because, he says, he fears reprisals, gave two reasons for difficulties that he claimed are now facing importers.

One: Government is faced with financial problems and wants every cent that can be collected through customs duties.

Two: Customs officers are systematically creating overtime for themselves.

"Nothing is cleared from the Port-of-Spain wharves without overtime," he stated. "And Piarco is much worse."

The Tariff and Classification List, a 280-plus page document is so complex that a simple piece of imported equipment with, say, three components, can be classified in 10 different ways.

In this way the item, formerly taxed at 15 per cent, for instance, is now taxed at 45 per cent.

The businessman said that all the Government has to do is what is being done in the Bahamas and other countries. "Very simple," he said. These countries just put a standard tax on all imports. If the country does that, then all the hassle over Caricom invoices and all the other documents will be over.

"Once items that need special licences are checked, once you are satisfied that duty items such as drugs are in fact drugs, then you will find that the customs will not be indulging in all this overtime nonsense."

Questioned about this, customs officers last week denied that any undue pressure was being brought to bear upon businessmen by their department.

Several officers said that customs clerks and brokers fail consistently to go through routine procedures and give the importers concocted stories about the delays.

It was learnt, during the enquiry by the SUNDAY GUARDIAN, that by this week, the results of a Government investigation into certain operations of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce will be in the hands of Prime Minister George Chambers.

Both businessmen and Customs officers have for years pointed to irregularities over import licences granted by the Ministry.

Large consignments of goods that are on the Negative List have been cleared by Customs officers, leading to allegations that the officers are involved in rackets with certain businessmen.

But senior officers, on checking, have frequently found that licences for the banned goods were issued by Ministry officials.

Customs officers generally do not deny that some irregularities involving their colleagues take place. But they point out that there are 462 officers and around 200 guards in the Customs and Excise Department.

A senior officer explained that while some officers have been dismissed and transferred, it was very hard to prove that criminal conspiracies took place.

Other sources revealed that over the last two months several changes have been made in personnel operating on the second floor of the Nicholas Building on Abercromby Street.

The second floor, which houses, among other divisions, the Preventative Branch and the warehouse sections, has been gaining some notoriety of late. There have been allegations that goods with curious contents are taken there and given the okay when awkward questions are asked at Piarco and other entry points.

Officers and other sources acknowledge that the department has a history of sometimes not checking too closely on suitcases and even containerised goods.

But customs officers point out that:

--Some very important people consistently bring in goods at Piarco and make false declarations--and officers have been transferred because they "embarrassed" top officials.

According to a report, these people frequently use the VIP Room as a point of exit at the airport and while their luggage can still be searched there, the unwritten policy is not to do so.

--Customs officers have been actually threatened by senior members of the Police Service because friends or relatives of the lawmen were exposed as smugglers.

CSO: 3298/856

TRADE MISSION TO CANADA OPENS DOORS TO MANUFACTURERS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

THE RECENT trade mission to Canada by a Trinidad and Tobago Government team opened up doors for this country's manufacturers. This was stated by Mr. Arthur Lok Jack, president of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA) who was a member of the team.

The Trinidad and Tobago mission which held talks with the Canadian Government, was headed by Rep. Ronald Williams, Minister of State Enterprises and included Mr. Desmond Cartey, Minister of Industry and Commerce.

Reporting to the TTMA at a special meeting at the Trinidad Hilton Hotel yesterday Mr. Lok Jack said that Mr. Williams and Mr. Cartey made it plain to the Canadians that if Canada wanted to continue to trade with Trinidad and Tobago, "they have to open doors to us."

Mr. Lok Jack said: "We met people we would never have got to see, but because of Government's intervention, we were able to meet them and get doors open." He said Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers were also in Canada at the time of the Government mission and were able to receive orders for some products and the Canadians were asking about some more products.

He said too that they met representatives of the Canadian Importers Association who were willing to help. Manufacturers could explore possibilities.

The Association was hoping to mount a trade mission to Canada

He said the TTMA was negotiating a barter arrangement with Guyana, which had invited the TTMA to come and see and discuss the matter. The invitation would be accepted but he could not state at this point what specific items they might be able to barter.

There was some bartering already with Jamaica he said.

Mr. Edward Habib, TTMA vice-president, said that barter arrangements were being discussed with Jamaica. Such trade could be in garments for men, women and children.

Mr. Lok Jack said the TTMA was planning to mount a trade mission to Jamaica towards the end of November.

The TTMA president said there were virtually no real trade problems now. TTMA members were receiving licences from Jamaica.

and he felt that a similar mission as that sent by the Government to Canada should be sent to West Germany to open up areas in Europe. Joint ventures in Japan should also be kept in mind, he said.

CLOSED MARKET

Mr. Lok Jack said that he thought that Guyana was a closed market as far as manufacturers exporting from Trinidad and Tobago was concerned, with the exception of essentials.

Guyana owed the Caribbean Multi Clearly Facility (CMCF) and Trinidad and Tobago so much that "we would be getting rice free for a very long time," he said.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS BREACHES IN CARICOM 'RULES OF ORIGIN'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text] TRINIDAD and Tobago Government has threatened to stop imports from Caricom countries which breach the Caricom Rules of Origin.

The Trinidad and Tobago position was made clear at the recent meeting of the Council of Ministers which preceded the Caricom Heads of Government meeting held at the Trinidad Hilton earlier this month.

Reporting to a special meeting of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association, (TTMA) yesterday, Mr Arthur Lok Jack, President of the Association, said that Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives, who together with Mr. Desmond Cartey, Minister of Industry and Commerce, represented Trinidad and Tobago, made this country's position abundantly clear.

The Council of Ministers meeting held at the beginning of July was chaired by Mr. Cartey.

Mr Edward Habib, TTMA Vice-President said Trinidad and Tobago and possibly Barbados and Jamaica were suffering "tremendous hardship in illegal imports and breaches of the Rules of Origin, mostly from countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)."

He said that it was sophisticated to the extent where garments were labelled made in certain countries even though they did not satisfy the rules of origin.

He said that by and large, the manufacturing sector in Trinidad and Tobago was beginning to see its base eroded and while noises were being made to the other Governments, nothing positive turned out.

Mr. Habib said he thought that the crunch of the whole matter came at the Council of Ministers meeting when Mr. Mahabir made it known that the Trinidad and Tobago Government took a firm view on issues of this kind.

Mr. Lok Jack said then: "Mr Mahabir made it abundantly clear that the Trinidad and Tobago position was that it could stop imports from any country involved in this type of practice until it puts itself in order."

He said Mr. Mahabir had drawn attention to the fact that the United States had stopped imports from Taiwan because exporters were falsifying quota documents.

Mr. Lok Jack called on manufacturers who had information relation to the illegal imports and breaches of rules of origin to bring it to the attention of the TTMA since Mr. Cartey and Mr. Mahabir had given assurances.

Impossible

One manufacturer stated then that only yesterday a shipment of shirt-jacs arrived which breached the rules.

Mr. Lok Jack said it was happening in garments, food processing, television sets and refrigerators. The breaches were more or less in re-labelling of items.

Later, Mr. Lok Jack, while discussing the administration of the Rules of Origin, pointed out that for some products it was impossible for the rules to be met because raw materials were not available and would not be available in the near future in commercial quantities.

Many of the companies could not meet the criteria for Caricom-produced goods and the Caricom meeting decided that the countries should open up bilateral and triateral discussions aimed at agreements on the issue.

He said that the result of the bilateral and trilateral talks could result in continuing trade in the products affected under article 10 which states that if a country wanted to accept a product it could do so.

Mr. Lok Jack was a member of the Trinidad and Tobago official team representing the private sector at official meetings leading up to and during the Caricom Summit.

On the Caricom Multi Clearing Facility Mr. Lok Jack noted that the facility had been reactivated and export manufacturers could utilise the facility.

Every country in the region was issuing licences and while they would not like that, it was clear that they had to have it.

"The only way we can induce preference for Trinidad goods to be imported into the Jamaica market" he said "is to have a licensing regime..so there is tit for tat."

He felt that following the talks in Barbados relating to the Bridgetown agreement it was his personal view that Jamaica was to have a further devaluation.

Jamaica was looking for a further review of the agreement in September. "We do not know what that means." He was leaving it to the manufacturers to plan their business.

Mr Lok Jack said the Trade representative at the Jamaica High Commission met the TTMA on Thursday every week and any manufacturer with licensing problems should consult the TTMA.

He said it looked as if this year would be a bad year for exports to Jamaica.

CSO: 3298/856

RETAIL PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS REGISTER INCREASE FOR '82

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Jul 83 p 4

[Text]

INCREASES in retail prices of consumer goods and services and building materials were recorded for the second and third quarters of last year, according to the economic indicators report for the period compiled by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

The report said that increases were also recorded in retail sales and producers' prices in these two quarters.

In the manufacturing sector, upward movements were observed in the indices of industrial sales, domestic production and productivity in the respective quarters, said the report.

However, hours worked reflected successive decreases in both quarters, it added.

In the second quarter relatively large upward movements were observed in the section indices for: medical goods and services, 12.6 per cent; transportation, 7.0 per cent; services, 5.1 per cent and drink and tobacco, 5.0 per

cent. Food increased by 0.7 per cent, said the report.

However, a decline of 4.7 per cent due mainly to a decrease in the index for rent was recorded in the section for housing.

According to the report, the section index for drink and tobacco increased by 7.2 per cent in the third quarter over the previous quarter. Food increased by 5.5 per cent during this period.

The report noted that consumer prices grew at a slower rate in the period January to September 1982 when compared with the corresponding period a year earlier.

INCREASE

Producers' prices rose by 2.8 per cent in the second quarter of last year over the previous quarter and 1.8 per cent in the third quarter over the second quarter, said the report.

In the all section index of retail sales, an increase of 2.0 per cent

was observed from the first to the second quarter 1982.

In the third quarter of the same year, a larger increase of 14.1 per cent in the value of retail sales was observed.

The report further noted that the section indices for household appliances, furniture and other furnishings, other retail activities and textile and wearing apparel increased by 37.2 per cent, 24.2 per cent and 21.4 per cent respectively in the second quarter.

In the third quarter, a significant increase of 50.1 per cent was observed in the section index for motor vehicles and parts, said the economic indicators report.

Industrial sales of the manufacturing sector excluding oil and sugar rose by 13.4 per cent and 8.5 per cent in the second and third quarters of 1982 respectively but with the inclusions, relatively smaller increases of 7.8 per cent and 2.8 per cent were reflected in the respective quarters, said the report.

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN--THE southern division of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce has proposed a nine-point plan to curb the effects of the current downturn in the economy. In the March issue of the Chamber's bi-monthly newsletter, the "New Enterprise," the following recommendations were listed to deal with the south businessmen's problems. These are: --Stress on further educating the population as to what is to be expected in a recession so that a national psyche and will to work together at all levels would become predominant. --Development of infra-structure in southern community with a view towards import substitution type industries especially in the deep south which is affected by the ups and downs of the oil industry. --Development of agricultural infrastructure to boost primary food production and create linkages towards a vibrant processing sector. --In the short-term the government should attend to the public utilities like rebuilding local roads, bridges, cleaning rivers, building recreation grounds by the contract system utilising contractors with organised labour. --Reduce company taxation and personal taxation to assist both business and labour to tide over the recession. --Institute an income policy--wages and prices. --Strategies to deal with phenomenal wastage and inefficiency in the public sector and state enterprises versus private enterprises and the burdens it has to bear on its own. --Housing estates in deep south. --Decentralisation of the administrative structure--setting up of an administrative centre in south to quicken the pace of decision-making in critical areas of business activity. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Jul 83 p 4]

DECLINE IN JOBLESS--LATEST data for the period July to December 1982 showed an increase of 6,800 people employed while the number of unemployed declined about 2,600 resulting in a net increase of 4,200 in the total labour force when compared with data for the previous period, January to June last year. These figures were released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Finance and Planning. According to the release, of the country's total labour force of 447,200, 66.9 per cent were male and 33.1 per cent female. Male labour force participation rate was 82 per cent and female 39 per cent with the general rate for persons 15 years and over remaining at 60 per cent. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Aug 83 p 4]

FEDCHEM PERSONNEL CUTBACK--AS FAR as Federation Chemicals Limited is concerned, by August 31 approximately 64 salaried and hourly-paid employees are to be retrenched after the company shuts down three of its plants. Efforts

are being made by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union to save the jobs of the workers. The union is preparing a document giving its views on the company's contemplated action, to be presented to the Minister of Labour. According to a union spokesman, they learnt that the Minister had asked the company to stay its hands on the retrenchment. But a company spokesman said yesterday that it had already written the Minister informing him of the position caused by the fertiliser situation on the world market. As far as the company was concerned, the plants (sulphuric acid, ammonia sulphate and urea) would be shut down and the workers retrenched. The company said that it had been operating the plants well below capacity and at a considerable loss for almost two years. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 Jul 83 p 1]

UNION ELECTIONS--SAN FERNANDO--OPPOSITION LEADER Basdeo Panday has been given another term as president general of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union. Mr Panday was re-elected unopposed in the union's executive elections held last week. He is now serving his 11th year as head of the union. Also re-elected were Mr Sam Maharaj, general secretary who defeated two other members for the post. The final count showed that Mr Maharaj obtained 2,927 votes to beat Mr Anook Danpat who got 1,074 and Mr Rabindranath Sitahal with 724. This is Mr Maharaj's third consecutive term. Mr Faizool Mohammed, a new comer, was elected assistant secretary (unopposed). Vice President Mr Nuevo Diaz, who is ill, did not stand for nomination, according to a union official. He was replaced by Mr Boysie Moore Jones who defeated Grantley Prescott 3,037 votes to 1,564 votes for the post. Mr Gafoor Mohammed was elected second vice president (unopposed) and Mr Roodal Radhay, elected treasurer, also unopposed. Elected trustees are Mr John Jaglal, (3,540 votes), Mr Latchan James (2,117) and Mr Balliram Maharaj (1,932). Both Mr Panday and Mr Maharaj thanked the workers for the confidence placed in their leadership. Two of the urgent matters which will take priority in the coming year will be the pursuance of labour unity and settlement of the current wage negotiations with Caroni Limited, said Mr Maharaj. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jul 83 p 7]

CALL FOR MINISTRY OF TOURISM--A CALL for the establishment of a tourism ministry has been made to Government jointly by the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Hotel and Tourism Association. According to the latest issue of the chambers's bi-monthly publication, "The New Enterprise", both associations pointed out that their suggestion "should not in any way be misconstrued as a reflection on our able Minister of Industry and Commerce, Desmond Cartey" but they saw the need for a separate portfolio since the tourist industry justifies and deserves undivided care and attention in order to reach its potential. In a joint letter to Prime Minister George Chambers, the proposal was submitted on the basis of a resolution passed by the hotel and tourism association and a decision taken by the chamber. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 29 Jul 83 p 4]

OIL SPILL DAMAGE--BARRELS of crude oil have been washed down in the Oropouche river killing crabs and small fish. Shrimpers at the mouth of the river on Mosquito Creek have ceased operations since last week because their trawl boats and gear have been soiled with crude. At low tide, crude from the Estuarine river is swept out in the Gulf of Paria hampering fishermen who operate

from the creek and Otaheite. The spill, believed to be thousands of barrels, took place near Coora in Fyzabad a few months ago, a Tesoro source said, and the recent heavy rain was now washing the crude into the drainage system. Scores of farmers in St. John's Trace, Avocat, have had their vegetable crops ruined by the heavy crude left behind in the floods. For the past week, the Tesoro source said, the company has been spraying the crude--day and night--with chemicals from atop the Oropouche bridge near the crematoria. He said during the day a boat was used to spray wider areas in the Gulf. The spill took place when a main taking crude from a producing field to a Tesoro tank farm ruptured. On the banks of the Oropouche river, the low tide leaves a wide carpet of crude which has coated the crab holes and mangrove roots. One fisherman said it will take years before the swamp could be repopulated with crabs again. Countless dead fish were seen floating off the mouth of the river. Mr. Goerge Weekes, president general of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union, said yesterday that he will take up the matter with Tesoro this week. [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Aug 83 p 1]

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